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THE HINDU

JUNE 12, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

on Sunday

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 pages • ₹8.00

Kerala CM Vijayan warns against attempts to intimidate him
page 6

Mamata calls for Opposition meet; Left calls it a unilateral move
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After 103 days, India's COVID-19 cases cross 8,000-mark
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India takes on South Africa in second T20I at Cuttack today
page 15

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NEARBY

Bid to install CCTV cameras leads to tension

BENGALURU

When civic officials turned up at the now disputed Idgah maidan in Chamarajpet with an earthmover and started digging a trench to lay cables for CCTV cameras on Saturday, Muslim residents of the area gathered and took objection to the work.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

State records increase in dengue cases

BENGALURU

Karnataka is seeing a rise in the number of dengue cases. Till June 10, the State has reported 1,838 dengue cases.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Home Ministry issues advisory to States as protests continue

Over 250 people held in U.P.; two dead in Ranchi

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday said it was monitoring the situation as protests continued in several parts of the country over the controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled party leader Naveen Kumar.

A senior MHA official told *The Hindu* that an advisory had been sent to the States, cautioning that police forces could be the target of the protesters and asking them to wear proper riot gear.

The instructions have been issued following incidents of violence reported from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh after Friday prayers. Protests were also witnessed in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Telangana and Gujarat.

In Delhi, an FIR has been registered under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against protesters who demonstrated outside the Jama Masjid on Friday.

Heavy deployment of police personnel was seen in Ranchi, where two persons died of gunshot wounds suffered during protests.

In Uttar Pradesh, 255 people were arrested in connection with Friday's violence.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 8

Keeping the peace: Security personnel deployed after violence in Howrah district of West Bengal on Saturday. • PTI

Bengal BJP chief arrested

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar was on Saturday arrested while he was on his way to Howrah, which has been witnessing violence since Thursday. The police said they tried to dissuade Mr. Majumdar from travelling further, before arresting him. ▸ PAGE 8

Blame game begins as BJP wins 3rd seat in Maharashtra

NCP chief hails poll management skills of Fadnavis

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has trounced the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition in Maharashtra by winning three of the six seats in Friday's fiercely contested Rajya Sabha elections.

The MVA's inability to win four seats is now being blamed on Independents and smaller parties who are believed to have ditched the coalition over the manner of functioning of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The Shiv Sena, however, blamed the loss on horse-trading by the BJP.

Elated by the victory of Piyush Goyal, Anil Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik, the Leader of the Opposition in Assembly, Devendra Fadnavis advised Mr. Thackeray to introspect on the internal friction in the MVA.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar praised Mr. Fadnavis for his poll management skills. But he added that votes had been cast on expected lines.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Devendra Fadnavis celebrating the victory of Piyush Goyal in Mumbai. • PTI

Cong. expels Haryana MLA

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Haryana Congress MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, whose vote in favour of a BJP-backed Independent candidate led to the defeat of party nominee Ajay Maken in the Rajya Sabha elections, has been removed from all party positions.

In response, Mr. Bishnoi tweeted: "Congress also has rules for some leaders and exceptions for others. Rules are applied selectively. Indiscipline has been repeatedly ignored in the past. In my case, I listened to my soul & acted on my moral."

RIFT EXPOSED ▸ PAGE 7

'Conduct survey of illegal immigrants'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra has instructed police stations in the State to carry out a survey of illegal immigrants and take suitable action. This comes after the Bengaluru Rural District Police arrested illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who were forging documents to help other illegal immigrants get Indian identity documents. "I have instructed the police to keep a vigil on people who are aiding illegal immigrants," he said.

9 PERSONS ARRESTED ▸ PAGE 2

Cricket gets a rising star from Sri Lanka's Tamil heartland

MEERA SRINIVASAN
KILINOCHCHI

Growing up in her village in Sri Lanka's northern Kilinochchi district, Sadasivam Kalaiyarasi had one dream – to play cricket for Sri Lanka. It came true this week, when she made it to the country's under-19 squad, becoming the first Tamil girl to enter the national cricket arena.

"It's my father who got me interested in cricket and supported me. I'm here because of him," says the lanky teenager, attired in her dark blue and red training gear. Her recent selection not only highlighted sporting aspirations in the former war zone, but also brought some much-needed cheer to locals who, like many other Sri Lankans, are braving crippling shortages and power cuts due to the national economic crisis.

A keen follower of cricket, Ms. Kalaiyarasi's father got his daughter to watch matches with him as a child. Seeing her pick up the game well, local coach Jeevarathinam Priyadharshan focused on honing her skills.

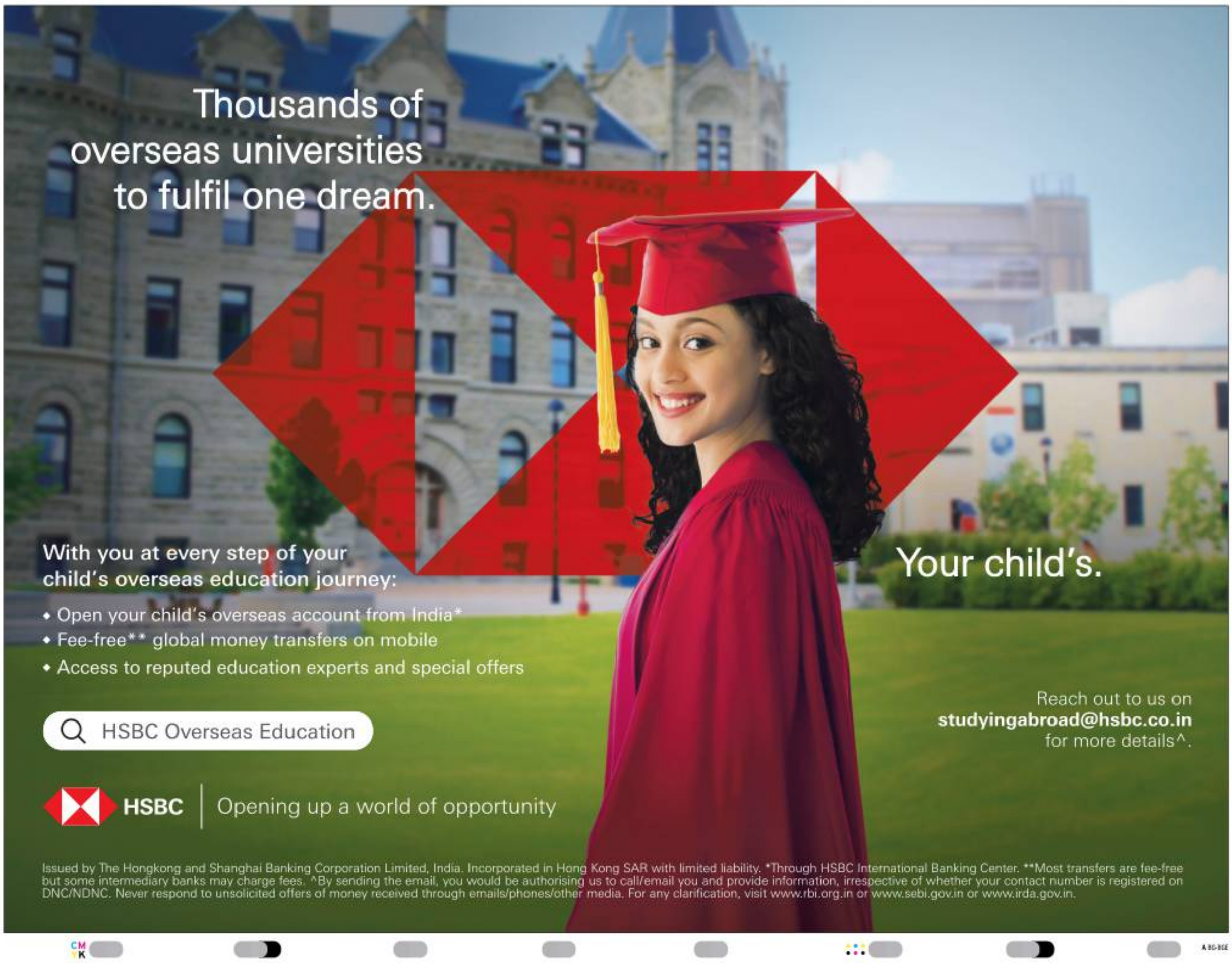
"She is a formidable pace bowler, very consistent and confident. More recently, her batting has also improved a lot. I see her attempting leg side shots that I play, and they are getting better by the day," says the proud mentor.

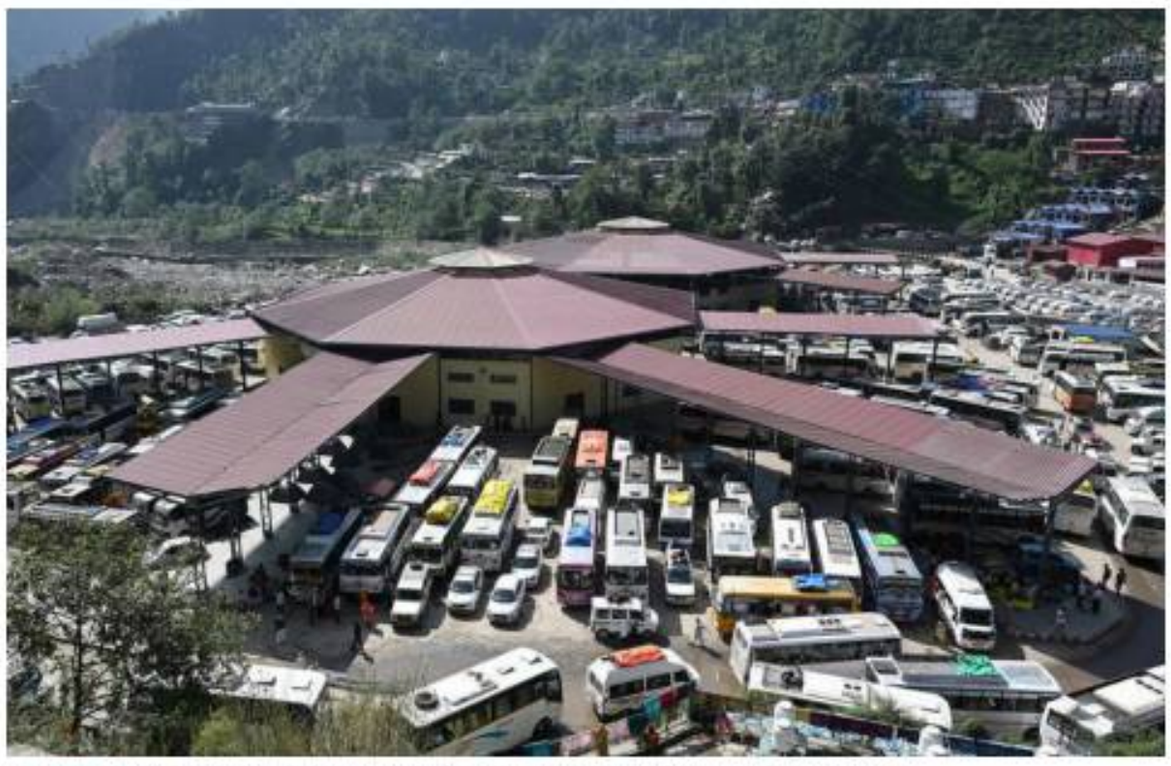
"In a zonal match held earlier this week, she hit what, six sixes?" he asks her student. "Seven, sir," she gently corrects him.

News of her selection came just a month ahead of Ms. Kalaiyarasi's 16th birthday. If Ms. Kalaiyarasi makes it to the final under-19 national team from the provisional squad, she will have a good three years to train professionally and play competitive international cricket.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Kalaiyarasi Sadasivam with Jeevarathinam Priyadharshan. • MEERA SRINIVASAN





At the base: A section of the parking lot at Gaurikund, the starting point of the trek to the temple.

Floating garbage: Devotees coming to take a bath in the Mandakini polluted by garbage.

Garbage mountains

Heaps of refuse dot the Himalayan mountain route to Kedarnath

TEXT AND IMAGES BY K.R. DEEPAK

The Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand, an annual pilgrimage to four Himalayan temples, has turned the route to Kedarnath into mounting heaps of garbage and plastic waste. Thousands of devotees are ferried on vehicles till Gaurikund from where the 18-km trek to the Kedarnath temple begins. Many pilgrims are transported on horses and mules and some in *palkies* and helicopters, while a sizeable number take the journey on foot. The heavy influx has resulted in rising air pollution and environmental hazards. The State government has been struggling to address the issue of mounting garbage dumped into the Mandakini river, which emerges from the Chorabari glacier in Kedarnath.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his monthly radio address of *Mann Ki Baat*, expressed concern over the filth being dumped on the pilgrimage spot. The piles of garbage, particularly plastic waste dumped by pilgrims, have alarmed environmentalists who say that this can hurt the fragile ecosystem, lead to soil erosion and cause landslips. In the recent past, images of garbage heaps along the Kedarnath route had gone viral on social media, with many demanding a strict fine for offenders and urging the government to keep a cap on the number of tourists every season.

Kedarnath reopened after six months on May 6. While in the past, the annual pilgrimage to Kedarnath used to peak by the third week of May, the Char Dham was packed from day one this year. As many as 42 deaths were reported on the Kedarnath route, the highest on the Char Dham route, during the first two weeks of its opening.

Unbridled pollution: Garbage dumped on the banks of the Mandakini.

Long trudge: A long row of devotees taking the 18-km trek on horseback and foot.

Flying in: A helicopter landing with devotees near the Kedarnath temple, while many queue up for their return flight. Every few minutes, helicopters land on the helipad near the temple.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

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- Why is India ranked at the bottom of the 2022 Environmental Performance Index? https://bit.ly/enviroindex

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Idgah maidan row: Bid to install CCTV cameras leads to tension

Communication gap makes residents think it's an attempt to build a compound wall

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

When civic officials turned up at the now disputed Idgah maidan in Chamarajpet with an earthmover and started digging a trench to lay cables for CCTV cameras on Saturday, Muslim residents of the area gathered and took objection to the work. With no prior communication, they mistook it to be an attempt to build a compound wall. Tension prevailed in the area, and the civic officials had to give up digging.

BBMP officials preparing to lay cables for installation of CCTV cameras at Idgah maidan in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Permission sought

The effort to put up CCTV cameras was in the wake of a few Hindutva organisations recently petitioning the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) seeking permission to hold International Yoga Day and other events at the maidan; a move opposed by Muslim organisations who have held that the maidan is a gazetted wakf property.

However, BBMP has claimed ownership of the land, following which Hindu organisations have demanded that all communities be allowed to host events at the ground.

Digging at the place was taken up since the city police had asked the civic body to install CCTV cameras at the maidan and ensure that the cables were installed underground, so that it was tamperproof. "We do not want a communal situation on our hands. So, we want it covered by CCTV cameras, and we will also have police deployment for now," said a senior police official. "However, when civic officials went to carry out the request of the police, there was a communication gap, and some residents assumed that we were building a compound wall. The maidan was being dug up to lay cables. Now, we will install CCTV cameras with overhead cables," said Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Civic Commissioner, BBMP.

Contrary claims

Meanwhile, Karnataka State Board of Auqaf has claimed the 2 acre 10 guntas of land, that is the Idgah maidan, is a registered waqf property as per wakf gazette notification dated June 7, 1965. BBMP has claimed that its khata records show the land as a civic property. However, there have been allegations of BBMP khata records being tampered with. Central Muslim Association (CMA) that has been the caretaker of the Idgah maidan recently submitted a set of documents to bolster their claim over the land, including a 1964 Supreme Court order which reportedly struck down a proposal to construct a building on the land.

Chief Civic Commissioner Mr. Giri Nath said prima facie civic records indicated the land belongs to BBMP. "But now that the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, also a government body, has claimed ownership over the land, we will look into it more carefully. If the board makes a formal claim seeking a khata in its name, we will take a call," he said. Meanwhile, will the city police give permission for Hindutva organisations to hold their events at the Idgah maidan, is the moot question. "We are not keen on having an old communal fault line reopening again. If there is no dispute over the ownership of the land, we have no issues with giving permission. But if that is contested between two government bodies, it is for the government to take a call," a senior officer said.

IN BRIEF

Dak Adalat

BENGALURU

The office of the Chief Postmaster, Bengaluru GPO, will hold Dak Adalat on June 16 at 10 a.m. Bengaluru GPO said that customers residing in Bengaluru GPO delivery jurisdiction and availing facilities at the GPO, may send grievances and suggestions to Chief Postmaster Bengaluru GPO on or before June 15. They may also attend Dak Adalat in person at the office of the Chief Postmaster,Bengaluru GPO. Call 0890-2285O001/11 or mail cpmbangaloregpo @indiapost. gov.in

Platinum jubilee

BENGALURU

Rashtriya Military School is holding a three-day platinum jubilee celebration from June 13. President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the celebrations. Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and senior dignitaries will take part. The school is inducting the first batch of the girl cadets as boarders from the current academic year.

Nine held for helping illegal Bangladeshi immigrants get ID cards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Madanayakanahalli police, on Tumakuru Road, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, arrested a gang of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants helping other illegal immigrants from the country to acquire identity documents in and around the city. They were caught during the course of an investigation into an ATM theft case in which an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant, with valid documents, was arrested.

The group comprised not only Bangladeshi immigrants, but also locals, including a pharmacist with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Primary Health Centre (PHC) on a contractual basis.

The accused had helped in the creation of as many as 125 Aadhaar cards for the illegal immigrants over the last one year. "We have seized 31 Aadhaar cards, 13 PAN cards, 25 voters ID cards, 92 enrolment forms, 26 fake letterheads and 5 seals from the accused. Efforts are on to track down the beneficiaries," said M. Chandrasekhar, IGP (Central Range).

As soon as the racket was busted, the district police launched a special drive to identify illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who are residing in and around the city with valid documents. The police also said that there was a lapse during the verification for Aadhar enrolment, and that they would write to the UIDAI for necessary action.

The police have arrested a total of nine persons. The prime accused, Sydul Akoon alias Shahid Ahmed, a native of Kulla town in Dhaka, came to India through the porous border in Tripura illegally in 2011 and settled in Hottappanapalya in Madanayakanahalli on the outskirts of the city to work as a ragpicker.

The seized fake documents on display.

He used his local contacts to become a scrap dealer and set up SA Plastic Agency, police said.

He also obtained Aadhaar, PAN and other documents by forging the documents, and opened several bank accounts to send the money obtained through crime, Mr. Chandrasekhar, said.

The other accused who helped Sydul in his operation are his son Suman Islam, Mohammed Abdul Aleem, from Bangladesh, and locals identified as Suhail Ahmed, from D.J. Halli, Mohammed Hidayath, Mohammed Ameen Sait, Rakesh, Aysha, Syed Mansoor and Ishtiyaq Pasha.

Investigating officer Manjunath B.S., said among the accused Rakesh is a software engineer who lost his job during the first wave of the pandemic and started working with the accused to forge documents, including fake seal and recommendation letter of gazetted officials.

Ishtiyaq Pasha, a pharmacist on contract at a BBMP health centre, was instrumental in getting a fake seal and signatures of officials for obtaining Aadhaar for the accused.

He helped in forging documents to create fake COVID-19 negative reports and vaccine certificates.

Further investigations revealed that Sydul, using the Aadhaar cards, opened three bank accounts and made a transactions worth ₹4 crore. The accused would send the money illegally to his country through many accounts.

Two held for stealing phones

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The J.C. Nagar police on Saturday arrested two habitual offenders and recovered six two-wheelers and five mobile phones worth ₹5.9 lakh from them. The accused, Syed Nazim, 23, and Syed Ali, 26, from Shivajinagar, used to steal bikes parked in front of houses, and snatch phones from morning walkers.

On May 23, the accused robbed a phone from a morning walker at Benson Cross. Based on a complaint, the police analysed the CCTV footage and identified them. The duo are habitual offenders arrested earlier for similar charges.

Two arrested for slaughtering cow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police arrested two persons and recovered a rickshaw loaded with cow meat from them. The accused Syed Barkath, Imran Pasha and Suhail were riding the rickshaw in HBR Layout early on Thursday without headlights on. The police nabbed Barakath and Imran while Suhail managed to escape. They had stolen the cow in front of a house, slaughtered it and were taking the meat to the market.

Religious leaders' team meets city police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A delegation of religious leaders on Saturday met Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy and assured him that though pained by the comments on Prophet Mohammed, the Muslim community will not hold protests on the roads.

The delegation comprising of Muslim, Sikh, Jain and Christian community leaders demanded strict action against those who comment on religion. Maqsood Imran Rashadi, the Imam of Jamia mosque, City Market, who led the delegation, said that though there are protests marked across the country, the community in Bengaluru have decided against doing the same.

Reacting to Nupur Sharma's comment, Mr. Rashadi said that a mere suspension is not enough and there should be strict legal action to ensure that such comments are not repeated.

Mr. Reddy appealed to the leaders to convey the message of peace and maintain law and order.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed & experienced Electrical contractors for the following works: **Tender No. :** SUR/LIT/2022/07. **Name of work:** Provision of Infrastructural facilities for stabling of 140T crane at WADI. **Estimated Cost :** ₹ 67,10,267.67, **Bid Security :** ₹ 1,34,200/- **Completion Period :** 12 months. **Validity of offer :** 45 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website :** 08.07.2022 at 15.00 hrs. EMD cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website. EXP-29

RailMadad Helpline 139

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the immovable property listed in the Schedule herein below (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property") from its lawful owner SRI C. GOUTHAM, S/o Late. A. Chandrashekar Reddy, aged about 32 years, Residing at No.B-12, 7th B Main, 20th Cross, N.S. Palya, B.T.M. Layout, 2nd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, who claims to be the present absolute owner thereof. Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest, share, claim, Collateral from Bank/Financial Institution, charge in the schedule property or having any kind of charges or claim against documents of title or pertaining to such sale by the owner in favour of my client and write to the undersigned within (15) FIFTEEN DAYS from the date of Publication of this Notice with all documentary proof which they are relying on their rights with regard to the schedule property. Any objection received thereafter will not be entertained and our client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1. All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing No.7- 46 (old No.46/7) BBMP Khata PID No.61-23-46, measuring East to West 30.6 Feet & North to South 50.5 Feet, in all measuring 1547 Square Feet, situated at Obalappa Street, Chikkamavalli, Ward No.143, Bangalore, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
EAST BY : Item No.2 & 3 of the Schedule property,
WEST BY : Private Property,
NORTH BY : Private Property,
SOUTH BY : Obalappa Street
2. All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing No.36-4, BBMP Khata PID No.61-24-4, measuring East to West 20.6 Feet and North to South 13 Feet, in all measuring 267.8 Square Feet, situated at Obalappa Street, Chikkamavalli, Ward No.143, Bangalore, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by : Item No.3 of the Schedule property
West by : Item No.1 of the Schedule property
North by : Private Property.
South by : Obalappa Street.
3. All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing No.4/1, BBMP Khata PID No.61-24-4, /1 measuring East to West 13 Feet and North to South 52 Feet, in all measuring 676 Square Feet, situated at Obalappa Street, Chikkamavalli, Ward No.143, Bangalore, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by : Private property
West by : Item No.1 & 2 of the schedule property. **North by** : Private Property
South by : Obalappa Street.

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE Residential House Property bearing No.7-46 (Old No.46/7), BBMP Katha PID No.61-23-46, the property bearing No.36-4, BBMP Katha PID No.61-24-4 and the Property bearing No.4/1 (old No.36/4), BBMP Khata PID No.61-24-4/1, in all measuring East to West on Northern Side 43 on Southern side 49.5 feet North to South on Eastern side 51 feet on Western side 52 feet, totally measuring 2491 sq. Feet (approx) situated Obalappa Street, Chikkamavalli, Ward No.143, Bangalore together with all rights appurtenance whatsoever Whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the :
East by : Private Property
West by : Private Property
North by : Private Property
South by : Obalappa Street

Place: Bangalore, Date:12-06-2022
S. UDAYA KUMARR, B.A., LL.B., ADVOCATE
#263, Sri.MNS Arcade,3 Rd Floor,1 st N Block Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, -560010
Cell: 9845726723

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from its owner **Smt.K.S.Gayathri wife of N.Dwarakanath**

Persons/banks/society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary evidence regarding their manner of right, title, interest, claim or charge, within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the office of undersigned, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property on the basis that there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of House property bearing **Site No.252** formed out of ITI Notified Area, Old Katha No.335 measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft., along with a building standing thereon consisting Ground Floor measuring 10 Squares, carved out of Sy.No.4, situated at **Basavanapura Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, earlier Bengaluru South Taluk,** presently Bengaluru East Taluk, and bounded on the :

East by : Site No.253,
West by : Site No.251,
North by : 25 Feet Road,
South by : Site No.270.

LEGAL & LEGAL,
ADVOCATES, No.103, 2nd Floor, Ramya Nest Apts., 4th Cross, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru-560 043 Mob: 9900111844, 9880347460.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients have decided/ intended to acquire/ purchase the under mentioned schedule property from its owner **SMT. USHA VISVANATH,** aged 85 years, W/o. of late. Sri. S. N. Visvanath, Residing at No. 17 "NAHOR" 2nd "A" Main, Yelahanka New Town "A" Sector, Bengaluru – 560064.

The Public is hereby informed that any person/s having any manner of right/s, claim/s, charge/s, objection/s, against/in respect of the under mentioned schedule property, may notify the undersigned **within *Fifteen (15) days*** from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary proof in support of the same, failing which my Clients shall proceed to purchase/acquire the schedule property and they will complete the transaction as if no valid claims are subsisting against the schedule property and further no claim/s shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Residential house Constructed on **Site No.17-HIG, Sector-A, I Stage, 2nd 'A' Main Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064, New Municipal Corporation Khatha No.17/909/17, BBMP Ward No.4, Yelahanka Satellite Town,** site measuring **East to West 90 feet and North to South 60 feet,** totally measuring about **5400 Square Feet,** together with existing R.C.C Roofed Residential Building consisting of Ground Floor measuring 1460 Square Feet and First Floor measuring 250 Square Feet, totally measuring 1710 Square Feet of Built up Area and bounded on the:

East by : Road, **West by :** Site No.14
North by : Site No.18, **South by :** Site No.16

Sd/-
K.S. BHEEMAIAH, *Advocate*
No.186/1, 2nd Floor, J C Complex Annexe Sirur Park Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020. Mobile: 98453 39307

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Ph:9448252256,9686542903

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M.COM, MALE, 29 yrs exp in Contemporary Accounts (Tally prime), IT, GST, online payments and online return filing, seeks independent charge either in accounts or auditing. Cl 6369782577/ cmram1970@gmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**Ananya Anand** Peddi Bhotla D/O. Peddibhotla Chendrashekar Poorna Anand R/o Flat No. 432, Heritage Embassy Apartment, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, 560055 have changed my name to Ananya Peddibhotla for all purposes.

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9677018504

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Rush of pilgrims: A view of the Kedarnath temple with devotees waiting in long queues.

Unseemly sight: Another garbage dump on the banks of the Mandakini.

Waiting for descent: Horsemen waiting for devotees to return from the temple and ferry them back to Gaurikund.

Majestic view: The picturesque Kedarnath temple surrounded by snow-capped mountains.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 12	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:46
RISE	16:37 SET 03:35
MONDAY, JUN. 13	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:46
RISE	17:42 SET 04:25
TUESDAY, JUN. 14	
RISE	05:54 SET 18:46
RISE	18:50 SET 05:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm is likely.

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THE HINDU
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With dengue on the rise, State intensifies preventive measures

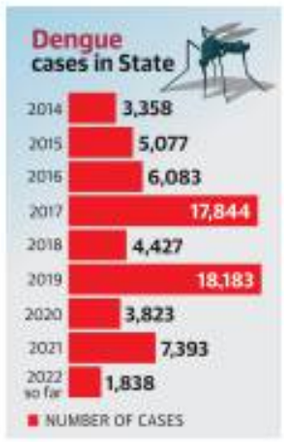
There has been a nearly 50% rise in dengue incidence till June 10 this year

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Along with a gradual increase in new COVID-19 infections, Karnataka is also seeing a rise in the number of dengue cases. Till June 10, the State has reported 1,838 dengue cases.

According to data from the State Health Department, there has been a nearly 50% rise in dengue incidence this year – from January till June 10 – compared to the corresponding period last year.

Till June 10 this year, 1,838 cases have been reported, while 916 cases had been reported in the corresponding period last year. In the last one month alone (May 10 to June 10), as many as 532 cases have been added to the State's tally.



22% from Bengaluru

With 388 (nearly 22%) of the total tally being reported in Bengaluru, the city continued to report the highest number of dengue cases in the State. After Bengaluru, a significant rise has been recorded in Udupi, Mysuru, Koppal, Chitradurga and Vijayapura districts from January to May compared to last year. Udupi has recorded the highest number (217) – from January to June 10 –among districts other than Bengaluru. It is followed by Mysuru (171), Chitradurga (105) and Koppal (94).

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said considering the current increasing trend of dengue cases in many districts, routine surveillance and source reduction activities have been intensified.

"Monsoon season supports the widespread proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is a vector for dengue, chikungunya and zika virus disease. We are intensifying the routine surveillance and source reduction activities in rural areas by ASHAs and health assistants. The fortnightly source reduction activity in urban wards is also being taken up on a war-footing mode with strict monitoring and supervision," the Commissioner told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

Circular issued

He said that a circular has been issued directing all District Vector Borne Disease Control (DVBDC) officers to ensure effective disposal of solid waste that will help prevent mosquito breeding in peri-domestic situations. "All government and private office buildings including commercial establishments should be inspected for *Aedes aegypti* mosquito breeding," he said.

Apart from intensifying surveillance, the DVBDC officers have also been instructed to ensure people adopt personal protection measures and facilitate biological and chemical control at household, community and institutional level, he said.

The district officers have also been instructed to facilitate timely treatment of infected patients and ensure availability of necessary medicines and logistics such as adulticide and larvicide at all levels, up to village level.

Law to be toughened to ensure strict punishment for acid attackers: CM

STAFF REPORTER
HUBBALLI/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the State government was contemplating a tough law to ensure severe punishment for acid attackers. He was speaking with mediapersons at Hubballi airport on Saturday, a day after a man splashed toilet cleaner on a woman who spurned his proposal for marriage.

Basavaraj Bommai

The police said this is the second copycat crime since Nagesh attacked a woman who spurned him on April 28 in the city. A man threw acid at a colleague on June 1 as well.

Terming the series of acid attacks in Bengaluru 'unfortunate', Mr. Bommai said the State government would soon strengthen the existing law to make provisions for severe punishment for acid attackers.

On Friday morning, Ahmed, 32, a colleague of the victim, who is a mother of three, proposed marriage to her, near Sarakki Junction. When she turned him down, he allegedly took out a bottle of toilet cleaner and splashed it on her face and fled from the scene. She screamed for help and passers by rushed her to a nearby eye clinic where she was given first aid and later shifted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital where she is being treated. The K.S. Layout Police arrested Ahmed from Goripalya.

Ahmed was allegedly pestering the victim to marry him. On June 10, he came armed with a bottle of toilet cleaner, with a plan to attack her if she refused again, police said.

COVID-19: 562 new cases in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday saw 562 new infections taking the total to 39,55,871. With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) touched 2.07% and the weekly TPR touched 1.93%. Of the new cases, 545 are from Bengaluru Urban alone. With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,066. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons were recorded. As many as 352 persons were discharged on Saturday taking the total number of recoveries to 39,12,376. Active cases touched 3,387.

As many as 27,123 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 20,659 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,65,82,829. Meanwhile, the State crossed another milestone on Saturday by administering 11 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccination. With 61,352 doses administered on Saturday, the total number was 11,01,18,520. This includes 5,45,86,844 first doses, 5,28,70,952 second doses and 26,60,724 precaution doses.

Malleswaram residents paint walls, play games to reimagine conservancy lanes

Malleswaram Majja Madona was organised under the 'Walkable Malleswaram' campaign

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

This weekend, instead of the regular malls and cinemas, the citizens of Malleswaram got out on conservancy lanes in the locality. While some grooved to music and performed zumba, others picked up their rackets to play badminton. Children played hopscotch on the lanes while their parents played boardgames. The 'Malleswaram Majja Madona' (Let us have fun, Malleswaram), organised under the 'Walkable Malleswaram' campaign provided recreation to the residents.

A conservancy lane being used for games and entertainment at Malleswaram in Bengaluru. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All of these activities were organised on the conservancy lanes of 19th Cross mainly with an aim to activate these lanes. "These activities have been organised to test some tactical interventions and also to get community members to vote on the permanent infrastructure we will put up here. But the main aim is to urge people to activate and use conservancy lanes as walking lanes," said Sobia Rafiq, co-founder, Sensing Local.

Conservancy lanes that were once used for the ignominious purpose of manual scavenging, are now mostly used for parking vehicles. Malleswaram Urban Living Lab (M-ULL), a collaboration between Malleswaram Social and Sensing Local Foundation, has now taken up an initiative to reinvent conservancy lanes into public spaces for senior citizens and children, boosting the walkability of the area. All facilities that senior citizens and children look forward to – benches, adequate lighting and road safety, play areas, swings, will be provided in these lanes, that connect key amenities like parks, schools and hospitals in the area. The initiative is supported by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) as well. These lanes will also be transformed into play areas for children. For residents, this was a chance to explore their locality in a way that they do not usually. "My family has been living here for decades and I do not remember stepping out into the conservancy lanes. I had heard about the painted walls on these lanes, but had not ventured to check them out. Now I feel like we have a lot of space in our locality to let our children play," said a young parent at the event.

Another interactive activity which was enjoyed by the crowd was the wall painting session organised with the help of a few professional artists. Some people from the community also closed the show for the day by rendering a musical performance. While Saturday's events were attended by many children including toddlers, the organisers are expecting a better turnout on Sunday as all schools will be shut.

The events on Sunday will also be on a slightly larger scale as five conservancy lanes connected to 8th Cross will be activated. Children who visit the lanes can take part in origami and gardening workshops, play street games, and also take part in painting, colouring and storytelling sessions. "The adults too can attend the composting (gardening) workshop and shop for their tastes at the garage sale," an organiser said.

While most who have registered for the events have been residents from Malleswaram only, the organisers said that there were people from nearby localities like Sadashiv Nagar and Rajajinagar, who had also turned up with their children.

'Book sales better than pre-COVID days'

THRISHA SAJEEV
ANN MARIA JAMES
BENGALURU

Sales at bookstores across the city have seen an increase of 30 to 40% in recent months, after successive COVID-19 disruptions. At bigger stores, around 50,000 to 70,000 books are being sold in a month while medium-sized stores are selling at least 30,000 books a month. While millenialls and IT professionals were the prominent customers in the pre-pandemic days, now the store owners have reported selling to the Gen Z crowd.

More young customers have also meant an increase in demand for genres of books for young adults. Non-fiction books, mainly finance and self-help related, also happen to be popular among the readers. "I think we were all pretty lost during the pandemic, so it felt enlightening to read up on mental health, actually," says Disha, a bookworm. "We have added on many new customers the last few months. We have had youngsters, who are also first-time readers, asking us for recommendations. Most of them want non fiction books only," said Krishna of Bookworm on Church Street.

In the initial few days after the lockdowns, bookstores employed several methods to bring back sales. •FILE PHOTO

In the initial few days after the lockdowns, bookstores employed several methods to bring back sales. Some began renovating their store, and some like Champaca, put in add ons, such as a library-like reading facility within the store, to promote sales. However, Champaca is yet to reach its pre-pandemic level sales.

At one of the biggest bookstores in the city, Blossoms, 70,000 books are being sold in a month since December. "We usually saw a dip in purchases in the months of February and March. Somehow this year, that did not happen. The first wave of COVID-19 was scary for us, but now the sales are better than the pre-pandemic days," said Mayee Gowda, owner, Blossoms Bookstore.

Sales seem to have picked up at Kannada bookstores stores too. While some reported finding old customers back, the younger crowd has also found its way to regional literature. After the pandemic, more youngsters, started coming in. I think, people started becoming more aware of the Kannada classics, and reading also in general," said Gururprasad D.N., of Aakruti Bookstores.

IN BRIEF

World Day against Child Labour today

BENGALURU

Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota (BOSCO), an NGO working with child labourers and children in distress will observe 'World Day against Child Labour', in the city on Sunday on the theme 'Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour'. According to a release, children from BOSCO will perform street plays to create awareness at BMTC Bus Stand, Majestic, Satellite Bus Stand, KR Market, and Gandhinagar. Rallies will be organized in Shivajinagar and Veerabhadranagar.

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. RAREMG/1970/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 24

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EMPLOYED QUALIFIED bridegrooms is wanted for SC/AD/MSC/DB 1983/ Vishakam,Dhulam bride 9498313625, 9444866276

HINDU SOZHIA Vellalar 28/157, Divorced Fair Girl/B.E short lived requires educated Govt/Bank working groom unmarried or divorced. CT: 63807 98748/84389 83733.

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

ASTASHASRAM, IYER, Revathi, Oct. 1972, B.Sc., Seeks well educated / settled 1st Marriage Iyer Groom only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED from professionally qualified Groom well placed within India from upper class family with clean habits for a charming fair Iyengar Vadakalai Girl 27, 150cms, Koundinya, Moolam 4th padam, BTech MBA, Chennai employed belonging to educated / affluent family. Iyengar/ Iyer/ any brahmin acceptable. Age difference 3 years. Horoscope matching optional. Call/ whatsapp: 9843341294 or 9843902242.

37 YRS Iyer girl divorcee, no kids, seeks well educated working groom age gap upto 5 yrs, clean habits, same community, except koundinya gotra. Chennai only! Ct 9940332926

AGAMUDAYA THEVAR 40/165 MBA working USA Divorcee No kids, Seeks suitable well Employed Groom below age 45. CT: 93633 33297.

HINDU VANNIYAR Girl 25/155 M.Sc, B.Ed. Anusham, Viruchigam, Wheatish seeks Educated Groom. 9940678478

HINDU Mudaliyar, BE 25yr employed Anusham, Virchagam Seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 9941555514 / 9841254490

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29, 175 cm, handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K. , seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23-27. Caste or language no bar. Christians can also apply. No brokers. Send bio, photo to raagaswara07@gmail.com.

MUDALIYAR BOY MS Engineer in Sweden,180/76 from affluent cosmopolitan family. Uthiradam 35 caste no bar. Ct: 9884187197.

RC Anglo-Indian 35/160 B.Tech, SW Engr in reputed Multi-national company seeks suitable Bride. Caste & Denomination no Bar. Ct: 9841462791

NRI BUSINESS Man looking for Divorced / Separated female aged below 30years. Contact: 7010375459

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Radiology 35 years Hindu. Tamil , SC Pondicherry seeks Doctor Girl.Contact.7708756395

BRIDE WANTED

MBBS DOCTOR, Naidu,
Age 27 years, Parents Doctors own Hospital in Coimbatore. Well to do family. Seeks a suitable Fair Doctor girl from an educated family
Contact:
98422 72255

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

SUDDHA JADHAGAM Nair 30/167 Makam, Pvt Job, Chennai, under going C.A Inter, Coimbatore settled. Subcaste no bar. Ph: 94434 77653.

WANTED BRIDE for Nambiar youth, 27 Years, fair, 177cm, Post graduate Engineer from IIT, Employed as Post Graduate Engineer in Qualcomm at Bangalore. Middle class family of Kannur District Kerala, mother is employed in State Govt and father is a Group A officer of central govt. In search of suitable Girls (similarly qualified/well employed at Bangalore/well employed elsewhere but transferable to Bangalore) from Nambiar/ Poduval/ Menon/ Nair/ similar communities, having age below 25. Interested parents please contact parents of bridegroom with Horoscopic details to 2023krishna9191@gmail.com. Whatsapp number may please be given for further communication

WANTED HINDU Educated Employed Malayalee Bride for MBA Gold Medalist Groom 33yrs/178cms Own Business. Caste no Bar Ph: 9600042949/ 7397311660

BRAHMIN YOUTH 48 yrs / 5'4", Degree, own computer shop. Other caste & divorced also considerable. 9847704391.

ENGLISH

CHETTIAR, HANDSOME, 28 yrs/183 cms/ MS Eng, from very well to do professional background, mutual divorce under progress - separated within weeks. Looking for tall, fair, good looking girl from an educated background. CNB. WhatsApp number: 8438867189

HINDU IYER only son 33 / 6 ft MBA / upper middle class ,working in Pvt. sector (Pursuing Carnatic Music) in Chennai seeks alliance from Hindu girls. Language subsect no bar. WhatsApp- 9342425663

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 31, 180 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a CEO. Mother is a Homemaker. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from Brahmin Iyer/Iyengar community. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 35, 170 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in London. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

CASTE NO BAR/MUDALIYAR, 27, 170 cms, Automobile Engineer, BE, ME. Lives in UK. Father is a Professional. Looking for a well placed and well settled match. Contact: 6366448343

CASTE NO BAR/REDDY, 30, 170 cms, Divorced, Lawyer, BA, BL. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Looking for a well placed and well settled match. Contact: 6366448343

VISHWAKARMA, 28, 180 cms, Engineer, ME. Lives in Canada. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

PILLAI, 31, 175 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Company Director. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated Pillai/Mudaliyar match. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 27, 160 cms, Finance Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Management Professional. Mother is a Homemaker. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from Pillai/ Mudaliyar community. Contact: 6366448345

VANNIYA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 26, 157 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Looking for a well settled and well placed match from India. Contact: 6366448343

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 27, 166 cms, Senior Designer, BBB. Lives in Mysore. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR CHRISTIAN, 30, 165 cms, Divorced, Software Professional, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Looking for a well settled and well placed match from India and Abroad. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

Catholic Adidravida Bride M.TECH (CSE), 24 yrs | 154 cm, SOFTWARE ENGINEER in CAPEGEMINI [Chennai]. Parents seek suitable groom from SOFTWARE PROFESSIONALS.
Call @ **9999143474**

GROOMS WANTED

Vanniar + Mudalier (Caste No Bar): 29/162, Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch, Father is a Business Man, Chennai, Affluent Family, Seeks Groom Rich & Affluent Business Family From Chennai or Coimbatore
Ct: 98404 80334, 89390 12419

Saiva Pillai, UK Doctor 27/180 Slim Fair Revathy seeks Tamil boy working in UK below 30 years of age from reputed family
Ct: 94864-89438
rcmp2021@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU DIVORCEE No issues 1977 Slim, MNC Transfer Job, Caste no bar. Wanted Employed Groom. 9443344936

44 Yrs, SC - Madiga Telugu Christian Chennai /diploma/ invtd decent family. Phone - 93908 45532

MALAYALAM

38 YEARS Nair boy from Coimbatore, working in HCL Technologies (WFH) seeking alliance from a decent family. Brokers please excuse. Contact +91 9894546059

CHRISTIAN PARENTS invite suitable proposals for son living in London, B.E., M.B.A. (U.K.), aged 45, working for a global firm, and also governing successful and growing family businesses in the U.K. and India with initiatives to expand to other countries. Please contact mother at selina@vineyardhills.in.

IYER BOY Pune, Mid forties, looks younger, Unmarried, PG, MNC now business, good monthly income, own house, seeks bride, educated 35-41 middle class, poor fly, no demands, Divorcee Ok Caste no bar, Employed/ unemployed.9995096272,9975539063

ENGINEER

Suitable Match for Hindu Thuluva Vellala (NV) Boy, 41 Yrs, Good Looking, 5.8", BE, MBA , Sr Mgr in Reputed Org Seeks Good Looking well Educated Family Girl.Call 044-24416439/ 8056196033

SINDHI

30YRS HINDU Divorcee 1991 born Tall, 181cms &handsome, well settled, Chennai based, B.Sc educated Sindhi groom looking for a kind and cultured, good looking bride with wheatish-fair complexion. Caste & marital status no bar. Chennai- 9884335911

TAMIL

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 Seeks Same Caste Bride 9486320982

TELUGU

✔ **NAIDU, 28YRS.**5'5". BCA,MA, Beautiful Bride working as Software Professional from an affluent business family seeking Tamil or Telugu Naidu Groom in India or Abroad from well settled family. Ct: 9500122948

ELITE RICH Kamma Naidu 26/B.Tech.,M.B.A. Own (200 Buses)Omni Bus ServicesAll over India 500 Crs. Family only Daughterseeks Groom. 9087604894

NAIDU DOCTOR doing MD, 26 years, parents Doctors settled in Chennai, Doctors preferred, call 9841355717, praveenraj19612000@gmail.com

24 MANAI Telugu Chetty BE.MBA 25/ 162/55 working in pvt bank chennai, 9790919406 gplvasudevan@yahoo.com

NAIDU 25/170, Fair, Beautiful, B.E, MBA, TL in MNC, 8Lac PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

TELUGU

NAIDU, 40/150cm, Uthirattathi, Ph.D., Asst.Prof, 1st Marriage seeks suitable Groom. Sub sect No Bar. 7358166806

URDU

SMU GIRL 27/165 B.Tech Team Lead MNC Chennai Seeks Suitable Alliance Contact: 9442141520 / kbegum8823@gmail.com

SEEKING PRACTICING SMU with no Dargah practices, never-married bridegroom, 36 yrs or below / 170cm or above, BE / BTech / MCA, IT professional, working abroad or in Tamil Nadu / Bangalore for my employed, MCA, MPhil educated, never-married, pious, upright by nature, 1987 born / 165cm good-looking daughter. Please write to : 90037 31213 or farhath_abbas@yahoo.com

SUNNI MUSLIM, Girl 24/165 B. Design, Fair, Slim, Working seeks well Educated Groom. 9841106166

MBBS 25 / 175cm, slim, fair, Religious fmly seeks Doctors btw 28yr preferably Chn wing to migrate USA 9342928472

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN PARENTS invite suitable proposals for son living in London, B.E., M.B.A. (U.K.), aged 45, working for a global firm, and also governing successful and growing family businesses in the U.K. and India with initiatives to expand to other countries. Please contact mother at selina@vineyardhills.in.

CHRISTIAN BORN Again 30/167, ME Kanyakumari District, Well settled family from Gulf Seeks suitable Bride. Contact: 9677037210

CATHOLIC MUDALIAR 33, 173cm MBA/ MNC 14Lak PA Chennai, Handsome Seeks Well Qualified Girl Ct: 6379397599

RC VELLALAR B.Tech, 38 /172 Proprietor Fitness Centre Seeks Qualified & Employed Bride. Cast No bar. Ph. 9840266592

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

Christian Vellalar 31/183, Fair BE & BSc., Hotel Management, Asst.Manager in Reputed Hotel. Seeks working bride in any BC. Ph: 9444342703

MUDALIAR AGE 32, March 1990,170 Cm,B.Tech,IT professional,12LPA, Rasi Thulam chithirai--3 Seeking Bride good looking Graduate Employed, Educated Family. Contact 9382617000.

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras: Microelectronics & VLSI Design), Principal Design Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, Eggetarian, Star: Kettai, seeks well educated, suitable bride (30-34 yrs). Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

HINDU REDDY 32/173 B.E., SWE Divorcee 20Lac pa CNB seeks suitable bride. CT:98943-87918, 94421-72774.

HINDU AD PR 31/175, B.Tech NIT Trichy, MBA IIM Bangalore, MNC-35L per annum. Seeks Bride. 9442181645.

HINDU, 38/ 162 cm. Journalist. 50,000 p.m. first Marriage. Own house in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bride from BC, MBC. Divorcee or young widow without Child. Phone: 93613 65640

MUDALIAR 29 165cm BE Avittam Govt job Australia seeks well educated slim bride . Ct Geetham 9884858014

RICH ARCOT Mudaliyar 28/ B.E.,Own (300 Buses), Wind Mills etc.,Seeks Rich Family Bride 7305491610

SAIVA PILLAI 34, 5ft 8inch, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army Tech Branch, 20 lacs PA, son of retd army officer looking for alliable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862.

VISWAKARMA (G.S) Uthiradam 42/ 168, Bachelor, Doctor, Principal in Pvt Medical college, Bangalore seeks suitable bride. Ct: 9480611093, 7349544114, 9448655053.

NAIDU 31/164cm ME Asst. Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee - no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar pref. Contact : 94456 89306 / 94430 52596.

BRAHMIN 32/182cm BE, MBA MNC HR professional 8Lacs PA seeks suitable Brahmin Educated bride, contact: 7667724406/g.nishanth85@gmail.com

SAIVA MUDALIYAR Well Settled 41/ 165 M.Tech employed divorce seeks bride below 38 yrs. Contact: 7624940197

INTERCASTE PARENTS Krithigai 27/ 178 B.Sc MBA US Voice Sr. AR seeks suitable bride Caste nobar 9840388489

1984 AUG Born 188Cms, Advocate (Bank & Co.,) seeks Educated & Good Looking Bride Veg Only Ct 9841236539

REDDIYAR 32 Swathi,Thulam B.A IT 60,000pm Seeks any Deg Good Family No Expectation, Chennai: 9789015037

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA 32 BE Mech Viruchigam Kettai Own IT Infrastructure Services well Settled affluent family, Chennai seeks employed good family background bride. 6369923434

THULUVA NAIYAKAR Pooradam 39/154 Wheatish DME & Ac Fridge Mech. Own House/Job, Seeks bride. Caste No Bar. Cont: 9940630864

Saiva Pillai 26 / 180 MTech MNC BLR well Educated settled Parents seek suitable Educated Employed Bride Email: tvnmas1993@gmail.com

PILLAI MUDALIYAR Punarpoosam 35, 175 CM MCA Software MNC 3L / PM Bangalore Seeks Graduate Bride CT : 9176245009,8143351235

PENSIONER 75, Expects Healthy Pious Life Partner around 70 Brahmin / Non Brahmin Woman Ct: 79048 21292

HINDU (AD), MBBS - 29 Fair - Pooratadi, Kumbam (Seeks alliance) Ct:9940622977.

CHETTIAR (CNB) 29/175cm M.Tech MBA (UK) fair, Seeks BE/Medical professional Bride. Ct: 6381980158.

TAMIL

BTS'2Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov'91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 50-55 lacs seeks Doctor /Engineer 5.4' Contact: 7382520365.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA Groom 34yrs B.A. 178cm Handsome, Own Business. Seeks Fair, Homely Bride. 8939140160

PROFESSIONAL WORKING in Chennai seeks graduate/post graduate woman aged bet. 45-50 years widow & divorcee. Caste religion no bar. 86673 87588

MUDALIAR, DIVORCE, 34 ,M.Tech, 14Lacs P.A,178cm, Smartseeks Suitable Bride,CNB Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

✔ **SAIVA PILLAI,** MBA (Finance),27/ 165 cms, Working in MNC, with good network seeks suitable match. Contact: 9500072379

HINDU PILLAI 52/160cm Agriculture, Seeks Bride (CNB),CT:9788881674.

✔ **MUKKULATHOR, 27** yrs, 5'11" tall, B.Tech, MS, Software Engineer, Salary in lakhs from a Rich Family. Father owns a engineering college. We Invite brides from Any Caste from an affluent family. Ct: 9500124085

HINDU TAMIL, 1984 Born, Revathi, Groom From Rich Business family, Madurai, Seeks Good looking Bride, from South India. CNB. smjmduad@yahoo.com

AGAMUDAYAR, 29/172, Poonadam, B.E, Fair, SWE, 20 L pa seeks suitable Bride preferably SWE/ Doctor. Ct: 86080 99100

Tamil Hindu Adi-Dravida Fair BE Mech in Hyd MetroRail Project 26/172 Simma / Puram seeks Bride Same Caste Doctors/Engg below 25 Fair Mob: 9444915129.

58, DECENT, Well Settled Seeking Issueless Widow / Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

MUDALIAR 26/167, Fair,Handsome, MBBS, Own Hospital, 200000. PM,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

5'8 Mudaliar Boy Born in Feb 90 well settled working in Central Govt Rural Bank (RRB) near Hyderabad salary 8 lacs PA seeks Bride 5'2 above contact no 9896229004

HINDU AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar,AC Rajhavan,28/170cm, Fair,Viruchigam, Anusam, M.Tech, Pvt 50000/- Seeks same Cast Bride. Ct:9150727763, 8778669911

ASST.VICEPRESIDENT-USA-Green-Card IYER 39 Vadhulam Poorsdam 4, vegetarian non-smoker teetotaler divorced, seeks girl from Iyer/Iyengar community. Ph: +919080658946 Email: ar.matrimony@msgcoe.info

ASTASHASRAM KARTHIGAI 53 MBA M.S, well settled Seeks educated 1st Marriage any Iyer brides only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

NEVER MARRIED Iyer Brahmin, Kerala, 41 yrs, Kerala government service, seeks unmarried Brahmin bride 32-36 yrs 9400442475

IYER, 41 Years, Self employed Chartered Accountant earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

BRAHMIN BRIDE Professionally Qualified wanted for: IYER, Vadama,Sriva tsa,Pooram,Fair,Tall,27years,affluent,B.E., M.B.A (IIM-A) Employed in Bangalore. Ct:9444069930 9092792477

Iyer, Aaiyam, Moudgalya Gothram, 25 years, 5.3",

Degree in Mass Communications, planning to do Masters, Presently Working in a Advertising Agency in Bengaluru with Income of Rs. 18 lacs per annum Seeks Suitable Educated Broad Minded Brahmin Bride.

Subsect No Bar
email:
nimishamba22@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED for 41yr old bachelor of clean habits CA, employed in Bangalore, Iyer, Haritha gothram from qualified girls from decent family Ct: 9916353313 / 6362305857

SC Arunthathiyar 29/180 cm M.Sc M.Phil Clinical Psychology working in Pvt Hospital, Cbe Rs.50K pm Own House, Seeks suitable educated Bride (Divorce Excuse) Ct: 9486100717.

NATTUKKOTTAI CHETTIAR 37yrs IT Mgr.(computer) Rs.12 Lakhs PA seeks Bride.CNB. 9884686568 / 8754548204

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

MUDALIAR 29/168, Kattai BE Mech Rs.55000 PM, own house CBE. Seeks Bride. Ct: 9597772439/ 8489272439.

CENTRAL GOVT officer, Chennai 56yrs Hindu widower with 13yrs old daughter seeks suitable life partner, Caste, Community No Bar. Spinster, Divorcee, Widow without encumbrace preferred. Contact: 91235 30616

MD (CLINICAL) Marathi Brahmin Boy 1990 5'10" Chennai Based Seeks Tamil Telugu Marathi Doctor Girl MD/MS(Clinical) & also State/ Central Govt Doctor's.Ct:9968267797/ 9968267792

TELUGU

39 Yrs, SC - Madiga Telugu Christian Chennai based Working in USA / Family Invtd Smart wkg life partner. Phone: 93908 45532

KAPU BOY, 6 feet 1 inch 28, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur,Group A gazetted officer in Govt of India seeks suitable alliance from Telugu/ Tamil speaking family. Contact: +91 8939575214

GAVARA NAIDU Hastham 28 Slim BE 16 LPA Seeks Qualified Employed Goodlooking Girl from Middle Class. 9443620099 & 9442480922

NAIDU, GAVARA - 27/178, Engineer, from an educated family. Seeking for a good looking and broad minded girl either in India or abroad Contact : 9500812800

RICH MILL Owners, Kamma Naidu27, B.Tech., own Spinning MillsWindmills Solar Firms etc., (Madurai) seeks Rich Bride 7200067015

GAVARA NAIDU, 36/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Enggi), Chief Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

Velanadu Vaidika Brahmin, Hartasa, Pushyami, SWE Looking for Suitable Unmarried Telugu Brahmin girl, age above 26y+ working or not working contact : Parvatamma, Plot No 121 F2 JJ Shelters 26th Street Shankar Nagar Panmal chennai 75.

NAIDU 30/180, Handsome,B.E, MS,Data Scientist, USA,1400005. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

Brahmin,Specialist Doctor earning 2,70,000 permonth wants Brahmin Bride around 45-53 yrs Ph: 9052297329

URDU

New York Employed, 36, 5'11", Engineer with Management Degree from Columbia University, only Son of a Chennai based Family of Professionals, seeks suitable Bride. Early marriage. Contact : 8050010688.

LOOKING FOR Chennai Urdu speaking bride for our son 28/59 B.E., Asst. Manager at L&T Construction Contact: 9841866594

ALLIANCE INVITED for our son, 28 yrs, 6ft, very fair, BBM Graduate, working in MNC Bangalore (6LPA), from an educated, religious, Urdu speaking decent family, from Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu. Contact- 8088293949, 8861750596.

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BRIDES WANTED

1) VANNIYAR, 31yrs, 5'7" Handsome & well educated Groom from an Affluent Business family seeks Educated & good looking bride from a respectable family. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9841015700

2) Wanted good looking, educated, homely girl with traditional values for a Vanniyar Groom 86 born, 5' 7", Business family. Caste No Bar. Contact : 9150611196

GROOMS WANTED:

1) Wanted smart handsome PG doctor or well settled Business background Reddy boy from Chennai for a beautiful doctor girl /Jan 94 / 5'3" Contact : 9790960768

2) Wanted groom from any caste with educated and well settled business background in Chennai or Abroad for an educated and Affluent good looking Brahmin girl /Sep 86 / 5' 4". Contact: 8925500593

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THE HINDU

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Why Mekedatu project continues to divide Karnataka and T.N.

As Karnataka takes steps towards realisation of the dam, here is look at what people in and around the site expect from the project that has seen two States lock horns

T. RAMAKRISHAN
MEKEDATU

About 100 km away from the hustle and bustle of Bengaluru, the Cauvery sashays down the picturesque rocky terrain of Mekedatu. Part of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and a popular tourist spot, Mekedatu has also been at the centre of intense discussion between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the two southern States through which the Cauvery flows mostly.

Karnataka has been pursuing, with renewed interest, the project of building a reservoir to cater to the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru and has allocated ₹1,000 crore in the Budget. The State Cabinet last month approved the resolution of both Houses of the Legislature that urged the Centre to provide clearance to the Mekedatu project.

In the latest development, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had resolved to discuss the issue at its meeting to be held on June 17, which the Tamil Nadu Government has now opposed in Supreme Court.

Troubled waters: The Cauvery flows through a deep and narrow gorge at Mekedatu, near Kanakapura, in Ramanagaram district. The Karnataka government has been pursuing the project to build a reservoir to cater to the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru. It has allocated ₹1,000 crore in this year's Budget. • K. MURALI KUMAR

My village gets water supply for one to two hours a day. If the project fructifies, it will benefit villages like mine.
HEERAMMA
A homemaker of Maralebekuppe village, 20 km from Mekedatu

You can have a drinking water-cum-hydro power project there [at Rasimanal]. The two States can come to an understanding on how much water is to be supplied to Karnataka for Bengaluru. But, this project is possible only if all the three governments agree.
P.R. PANDIAN
A farmer leader from Mannargudi of Tamil Nadu

I have not shifted from my place - Yelahanka - because my area is covered under the Cauvery water supply scheme.
B. KUMAR
A senior IT professional

High expectations

The proposed reservoir project is being looked forward to eagerly in parts of Bengaluru and in villages around Mekedatu. "I have not shifted from my place - Yelahanka - because my area is covered under the Cauvery water supply scheme," says B. Kumar, a senior IT professional. The quality of groundwater being poor and city growing exponentially, there is a need for a project such as Mekadatu, he says. As per an estimate, the population of Bengaluru, which is now 13 million, is expected to touch the 20-million mark by 2031, when the city will need 4,000 MLD of water.

Heeramma, a homemaker of Maralebekuppe village, about 20 km from Mekedatu, says her village gets water supply for one to two hours a day. Sitting beside a poster with the slogan "Namma Neeru Namma Hakku" (Our water, Our right), she believes that if the project fructifies, it will benefit villages like hers, through which the pipelines will have to be laid for Bengaluru. The slogan was the theme of the 150-km-long march of the Congress in support of the project.

At present, the need of those who live in villages along the Kanakapura-Mekedatu road is met largely through groundwater. In addition, reverse osmosis plants have been put up en route, providing 25 litres of treated water at ₹5. Besides addressing the drinking problem, people in the region hope that the project will solve other problems. Shobha of Krishnayyanadoddi has a daughter who suffers from fluorosis, from contaminated water. She longs for fresh water supply.

States battle it out

Originally mooted in 1948, the Mekedatu project underwent several changes in scope and coverage over the years. As per the State's current plan, a ₹9,000-crore balancing reservoir has been proposed at Mekedatu, seeking to impound 67.16 tmcft (thousand million cubic ft.) of water. The project, which will submerge around 4,996 hectares of land, including about 4,800 hectares of forest and wildlife land, is expected to help Karnataka utilise an additional 4.75 tmcft of water allotted by the Supreme Court in its judgment in February 2018 to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and neighbouring areas. It will have a 400 MW hydro power component too.

More importantly, the proposed dam will regulate the release of required quantum of water to Tamil Nadu on a monthly basis as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)'s final award of February 2007, as modified by the Supreme Court, says the Karnataka government. However, there is a clear trust deficit between the two states on the project, which is currently pending several clearances from different agencies.

Besides Tamil Nadu, a section of residents of Muthathi village in Mandya district of Karnataka too are against the project as their village will get submerged if the reservoir becomes a reality. Four other villages - Sangama, Kongedoddi, Madavala and Bommasandra - will also go under.

Alternative courses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MEKEDATU

Suggesting an alterative to the dam project, P.R. Pandian, a farmer leader from Mannargudi of Tamil Nadu, concedes that Bengaluru requires more water and this can be met by reviving the reservoir project in Rasimanal.

"You can have a drinking water-cum-hydro power project there. The two States can come to an understanding on how much water is to be supplied to Karnataka for Bengaluru. But, this project is possible only if all the three governments - the Centre and the State governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka - agree," he says.

Pointing out that there are 193 lakes in and around Bengaluru, T.V. Ramachandra, who heads the Energy & Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, says the best option to meet the local water demand is to rejuvenate the waterbodies; enhance storage capacity, and improve groundwater recharge. Keeping Bengaluru's requirement as 18 tmcft annually, the academician says the city, having a spatial extent of 740 sq km, gets annual rainfall of 700-850 mm, which, in turn, yields about 15 tmcft. Also, wastewater, if properly treated, will give about 16 tmcft.

Congress and JD(S) have accepted BJP as 'A team': CM

'We're happy about it; why should we worry about who is the B team'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Mocking Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) for calling each other "B team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said that it only shows that both have accepted the BJP as the "A team."

"We are happy about it. Why should we worry about who is the B team?" said Mr. Bommai in Belagavi on Saturday, reacting to the Rajya Sabha results announced on Friday in which BJP won three out of four seats, while Congress won one seat and JD(S) drew a blank.

After Congress and JD(S) failed to support each other's candidates, resulting in the BJP walking away with a third victory, both the Opposition parties

Basavaraj Bommai

have been accusing each other of working to ensure the saffron party's victory as its "B team".

No soft corner

To a query about JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's statement that Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and Congress leader Siddaramaiah had a "soft corner" for Mr. Bommai, he said that it was baseless. "Mr. Siddaramaiah always targets me. If you consider the terms he uses to criticise me, you will understand whether he has a soft corner for me or not," he said.

The Chief Minister visited the house of Prabhakar Kore, former BJP MP, in the morning. Party sources said this was to convince the KLE Society chairman to actively engage himself in the Council poll campaign.

"There was a feeling among party workers that he was not actively engaged in campaign. KLE society and its various institutions have significant clout among the voters who include teachers and graduates," a BJP leader said.

Withdraw revised textbooks: Reddy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC working president Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday urged the government to withdraw the revised school textbooks alleging that the revision had resulted in "distortion of history" and "saffronisation" of education.

Speaking to reporters, he demanded the arrest of Rohit Chakrathirtha, who headed the panel.

The Congress leader said the government should reject the recommendations made by this committee and instead retain the textbooks revised by the Baragur Ramachandra committee.

The Congress staged a protest on Thursday opposing the revised school textbooks.

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Labour Department
O/o Spl. Commissioner of Labour, Paturi's Pride, Papaiah Street 'K' Roads, Seetharampuram, Vijayawada – 02. Ph. No: (0866) – 2436312, 8985216940. E-mail: ysrls@aptbima.com & lec@aptbima.com

Tender No.K/840/2022
INVITING Tender on A.P e-Procurement Portal

Tenders are invited by the undersigned from IRDAI Registered Insurance Companies and IRDAI Licensed Insurance Brokers for providing insurance coverage against accidental death & accidental disability to the Primary Bread Earners (PBEs) of BPL families in the state of Andhra Pradesh under YSR BIMA, for a period of 1 year i.e., from 00:00 Hrs. on 01.07.2022 to 23:59 Hrs. on 30.06.2023. The Tender Notice will be available for download on A.P e-Procurement portal from 13.06.2022. Due date for submission of bids is 03.07.2022. As per Rule 161 (v) of GFR, 2017, Bid responses will be opened three weeks from the date of publication of the tender notice i.e., on 04.07.2022.

Spl. Commissioner of Labour

TWAD BOARD–INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	12 / F.CWSS to Mallasamudram/ DO(T2)/ CE/ CBE/ 2022/ Dt. 09.06.2022
Fund	Under Jal Jeevan Mission & State Government Fund
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Sale of Bid	**18.06.2022 to 18.07.2022 up to 17.45 pm**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	The Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Sewerage Division, Rasipuram.
Pre Bid meeting	**06.07.2022 at 11.00 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**19.07.2022 before 15.00 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**20.07.2022 at 15.30 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Crore including GST)	Bid security (Rs.in lakh)
1.	CWSS to 547 rural habitations in Mallasamudram union, Elachipalayam union and 11 panchayats in Paramathi union in Namakkal district by utilizing the bulk provision made under CWSS to Rasipuram municipality, 8TPs and 523 rural habitations in Namakkal district (Construction period : 18 months, Trial Run : 6 months and Paid Maintenance : 60 months)"	144.50	75.00

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

DIPR/2786/Tender/2022

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

TWAD BOARD – INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	14/ F.Retrofitting Existing CWSS to Sankari / DO(T5)/ CE/ CBE/ 2022/Dt.09.06.2022
Fund	Under Jal Jeevan Mission & State Government Fund
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Sale of Bid	**18.06.2022 to 18.07.2022 up to 17.45 pm**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	The Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Edappady.
Pre Bid meeting	**06.07.2022 at 11.00 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**19.07.2022 before 15.00 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**20.07.2022 at 16.00 Hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Crore including GST)	Bid security (Rs.in lakh)
1.	Retrofitting of existing CWSS to Sankari TP, Thevur TP and 245 rural habitations in Sankari union of Salem District. (Construction period : 12 months, Trial Run :1 month and Free Maintenance - 3 Months)	17.50	13.15

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

DIPR/2785/Tender/2022

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

No Congress MLA voted for BJP: Shivakumar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after elections to the Rajya Sabha, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said no party MLA had voted for BJP candidates and he was not aware of additional votes secured by candidates of other parties.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar said there was no substance in claims made by BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi that two Congress MLAs voted for the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections. As per the whip issued to MLAs, all 69 MLAs voted for party candidates former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh, who was declared elected, and Mansoor Ali Khan, who had lost and secured least votes (25) among all candidates. The KPCC chief said independent MLA Sharat Bachhe Gowda and JD(S) MLA Srinivas Gowda voted for Congress. In total, the party secured votes of 71 MLAs, he said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, actor Jaggesh, former MLC Lehar Singh Siroya (all BJP) and Jairam Ramesh were declared winners in the elections.

On Friday, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had alleged that Mr. Ravi was seen entering the Congress office. He alleged that Mr. Ravi approached Congress to garner support for his party candidate and "co-operate" in the victory of the BJP candidate.

On maintaining distance with the JD(S) ahead of the next year's polls to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Ask the party workers and see what they will say. Electoral gain and loss here is a different story. The party acted in a dignified manner and we safeguarded self-respect of all party leaders and workers," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Asked about the victory of three candidates of the BJP following the party's failure to strike an alliance with the JD(S), Mr. Shivakumar recalled circumstances leading to the formation of the BJP government in the State. "The collapse of the JD (S) and Congress coalition government pained us... We came to the streets to form the government. But Mr. Kumaraswamy went on a foreign tour without bothering about the stability of the government," Mr. Shivakumar said. "We will build the organisation to win 150 Assembly seats. Let the JD(S) build the party to win 123 seats and BJP 150 seats," the KPCC chief said.

Congress to protest before ED tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said the party leaders and workers will launch a protest in front of the Enforcement Directorate office at Shantinagar on Monday opposing alleged harassment meted out to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son and MP Rahul Gandhi by the ED over the alleged involvement in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper.

The ED has issued fresh summons to Ms. Gandhi to appear before it on June 23 for questioning. Ms. Gandhi was earlier asked to join the probe on June 8. The summons were renewed after the Congress chief said she was infected with COVID-19 and sought a fresh date from the central agency.

Blames Modi, Shah

Speaking to mediapersons here, Mr. Shivakuamar said the protest would be held at 10 a.m. MPs, MLAs, MLCs, AICC and KPCC office-bearers would participate. He termed the summons to Ms. Gandhis as "misuse of agencies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah". MPs of the party would hold a protest in front of the ED office in Delhi too on Monday. The block-level office-bearers of the party too would participate in the protest in Bengaluru, he said.

The National Herald newspaper, started during first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was the Congress's daily, Mr. Shivakumar explained.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 1383 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No.PCB/CNP/04/EPH/20/1842 Dated: 09.06.2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru has proposed the **Development of Eight Lane Peripheral Ring Road, connecting Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road (Crossing Ballari Road and Old Madras Road) in Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka.**

The proposed project involves development of 73.50 km long Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) between Tumakuru Road on West and Hosur Road on East via Ballari Road and Old Madras Road. It integrates with the existing NICE Road. The proposed alignment of PRR will be located at an approximate radial distance of 17 km - 25 km from city centre and acts as a bypass to the city for the long-distance personalized vehicles (cars and cabs) and commercial vehicles (trucks and LCVs). The proposed "Peripheral Ring Road" connects major Highways namely Tumakuru Road (NH-4), Hesaraghatta Road (SH-39), Doddaballapura Road (SH-09), Ballari Road (NH-7), Hennur- Baglur Road (SH-104), OMR (NH-4), Hoskote-Anekal Road (SH-35), Sarjapur Road and Hosur Road (NH-7).

The said project authority has to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF & CC, New Delhi as per EIA Notification dated 14.9.2006 (as amended on 1.12.2009), and required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference (TOR) vide No. SEIAA 40 IND 2019 dated 21.01.2020 and Corrigendum of Environmental Clearance to ToR No. SEIAA 40 IND 2019 dated 25.02.2022 and also considering the request of the project authority vide their letter No.BDA/EE./PRR/22/2022-23 dated 28.04.2022 the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name of the Company & Address: The Executive Engineer Infrastructure Division, Bangalore Development Authority Kumara Krupa West, T.Chowdaiah Road, Bengaluru – 20.**
2.	**Proposed location of the project: Development of Eight Lane Peripheral Ring Road, connecting Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road (Crossing Ballari Road and Old Madras Road) in Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka.**
3.	**Details of activity:** The proposed project involves development of 73.50 km long Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) between Tumakuru Road on West and Hosur Road on East via Ballari Road and Old Madras Road. The proposed alignment of PRR will be located at an approximate radial distance of 17 km - 25 km from city centre. The proposed "Peripheral Ring Road" connects major Highways namely Tumakuru Road (NH-4), Hesaraghatta Road (SH-39), Doddaballapura Road (SH-09), Ballari Road (NH-7), Hennur- Baglur Road (SH-104), OMR (NH-4), Hoskote-Anekal Road (SH-35), Sarjapur Road and Hosur Road (NH-7).
4.	**Cost of the Project:** Rs 14,934 Crores
5.	**Date, time and venue of public hearing: 13.07.2022 at 11.00 AM Venue: Dr: B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, No.757, 16th 'A' Main Road, Satellite Town, Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560 064.**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District. (b) The Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru Urban District. (c)The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru. (d) The Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Bangalore Urban District. (e) Tahsildar, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. (f) Tahsildar, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. (g) Tahsildar, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. (h) Tahsildar, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. (i) Tahsildar, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. (j) City Municipal Council, Byatarayanapura (k) Tahasildar Office, Yelahanka Taluk. (l) Avalahalli Village Panchayath Office & concerned all 22 Gram Panchayath Offices & concerned BBMP Ward Office, Bengaluru Urban District. (m) Office of the Regional Officer, Yelahanka (Byatarayanapura) Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, 1st Floor, Nisarga Nhavan, 7th D Main, Thimmaiah Road, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 010. (n) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (o) **HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 01.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written /E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Pinarayi warns of action against 'intimidation bid'

Kerala CM signals his intention to brave protests, black flag demonstrations

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday seemed prepared to dig in his heels and take on a resurgent Opposition baying for blood, as street protests demanding his resignation in the wake of the latest allegations by diplomatic channel gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh continued in parts of the State.

Signalling his intention to brave the protests and black flag demonstrations, Mr. Vijayan addressed three functions in Kottayam and Kochi amid unprecedented security arrangements. He later travelled to Thrissur under tight security cover to spend the night at the Ramanilayam guest house.

The heavy security arrangements in Kottayam and Kochi caused hardship to citizens and drew flak from the Opposition. At the event venue, the police directed the people, including presspersons, to remove black face masks.

Inaugurating the delegates session of the 56th State conference of the Kerala Gazetted Officers' Association (KGOA) in Kottayam, Mr. Vijayan warned of stern action against recurring attempts of intimidation. The government would not bow down to forces that act against the interests of the people. The Left Democratic Front government had full faith in the public who gave it a better mandate for a better administration.

Youth Congress activists waving black flags at Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Kottayam on Saturday. • VISHNU PRATHAP

"Do not try to threaten. This government is not going to be shaken by such tricks. So, just keep it with you," he said to a loud round of applause.

Pointing out the dangers posed by majoritarian communalism to the country, he said: "Communal forces have created a situation in which anyone can say anything, which eventually led to insulting the Prophet. Kerala, however, is different. We have seen the consequences of people running their mouth incessantly. If anyone dares to create a divide among the people, stringent action will be taken irrespective of the position that particular person holds," he said.

Accusing Sangh Parivar organisations and the governments led by them of embarking on the dangerous idea of dividing the people, he asserted the need for developing a secularist offensive against this movement. "This majoritarian onslaught in turn has forced a very small section among minorities to take up terrorism, which is nothing but suicidal. What they should understand is that terrorism by the majority as well as that by the minority is complementary."

The Chief Minister launched a scathing attack on the media for the way they handle insignificant issues. "You must think whether this is good for your credibility. You should check your own faults. Nobody will come to correct you. But you should understand it is high time you held a self-introspection," he added.

'Hiding behind police'

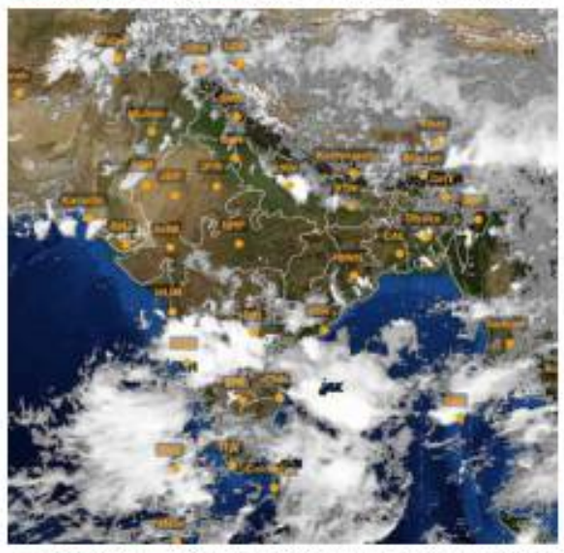
Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala accused the Chief Minister of hiding behind heavy police cover. Mr. Vijayan was left with no option but to leave the capital city following the spate of protests against him, he said.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said the security cover for the Chief Minister exposed his fear of public ire. "He should step down and face an investigation instead of governing the State behind police cover," he said.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram bureau)

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, south Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated pockets over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.0	25.8	Kozhikode	14	32.0	24.3
Ahmedabad	–	41.0	29.0	Kurnool	–	37.2	26.2
Aizawl	–	28.2	18.9	Lucknow	–	43.6	30.7
Allahabad	–	45.6	30.4	Madurai	25.6	36.7	23.6
Bengaluru	–	30.4	20.6	Mangaluru	34.4	29.1	23.2
Bhopal	–	40.9	29.0	Mumbai	41	33.2	25.2
Bhubaneswar	–	32.5	27.0	Mysuru	–	30.6	21.4
Chandigarh	–	44.3	28.7	New Delhi	–	43.8	29.7
Chennai	–	37.6	29.5	Patna	–	38.7	26.6
Coimbatore	–	33.9	23.8	Port Blair	2	30.9	25.7
Dehradun	–	39.9	24.1	Puducherry	–	34.4	26.6
Gangtok	–	22.4	17.4	Pune	32.4	31.8	24.0
Goa	56	28.6	23.2	Raipur	–	42.5	31.0
Guwahati	2	34.0	25.8	Ranchi	–	38.8	24.6
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	6	25.1	17.9
Hyderabad	–	37.3	25.1	Shimla	0.2	33.8	20.9
Imphal	4	29.5	23.0	Srinagar	16	25.4	13.3
Jaipur	–	42.7	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	53	30.4	23.1
Kochi	33	30.6	24.2	Tiruchi	–	36.5	25.5
Kohima	2.2	24.8	16.5	Vijayawada	–	41.4	30.2
Kolkata	2	33.0	24.5	Visakhapatnam	–	33.2	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	12	92	141	124	
Bengaluru	7	20	23	33	119	
Chennai	84	21	67	24	65	
Delhi	16	108	70	172	382	
Hyderabad	30	19	36	25	92	
Kolkata	13	15	19	60	95	
Lucknow	6	87	46	295	249	
Mumbai	4	–	80	32	136	
Pune	129	21	57	60	46	
Visakhapatnam	14	46	18	65	112	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 379 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF

A.P. student drowns at sea in Italy

KURNOOL

An M.Sc. Agriculture student hailing from Kurnool, Chilumuru Dilip, drowned at sea at Monterosso public beach in Italy on Friday evening when he visited the place as a tourist after completing his examinations.

TTD to perform 'Srinivasa Kalyanam' in 8 U.S. cities

TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will perform 'Srinivasa Kalyanam' — the wedding ceremony of Lord Venkateswara — in the U.S. from June 18 to July 9. The rituals will be performed in eight cities there, said TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy.

Director Vignesh Shivan tenders open apology

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA

Tamil film director Vignesh Shivan tendered an open apology on Friday night and said that the couple had no disrespect towards Lord Venkateswara whom they revered with utmost devotion.

"It is with the same zeal that me and my wife, Nayanathara, drove straight to the temple from our marriage venue at Mahabalipuram to take part in the Kalyanotsavam of the deity without even going to our homes," he said.

The couple found themselves in a thick of controversy when a footage of them walking along the Mada Streets of the hill temple with footwear on went viral on Friday. Mr. Vignesh said

Vignesh Shivan

that in their anxiety driven hurriedness to have some photos clicked in front of the main temple, they did not realise that they were sporting the footwear.

"The photo shoot was done only with an intention to etch the sweet moments in our memory and as such there was no *mala fide* intention behind it," he said.

Potency test conducted on Hyderabad gang-rape accused

Test on one minor postponed; test on fifth minor not done

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police on Saturday carried out potency test on the only major and three minor accused in the gang-rape a minor girl at Jubilee Hills.

While the test was done on four of the accused, one minor had to be taken back to the Juvenile Home at Saidabad as the deadline for interrogation was about to expire. The test on him would be done on Sunday.

The test on the fifth minor was not done as he was not accused of rape.

They were taken to the Forensic Science Department of Osmania General Hospital with faces masked in three cars.

Crucial test

The Potency Test Report, the medical examination report of the accused in cases involving sexual assault, becomes important not only to prove if the accused or minors are capable of sexual intercourse under normal circumstances, but also because the test is crucial evidence for the investigating officer. The whole procedure is prescribed under Sections 53 and 53A of the Cr.Pc.

Around noon on Saturday, the accused were taken to the hospital in a private car and an SUV with windows covered with paper. They were moved out of the vehicles by policemen in plainclothes in full secrecy.

The test room at the hospital was cordoned off by police personnel from all sides. A few glimpses of the cars moving in and out were caught on camera.

Earlier, it was learnt that the investigators had appealed to the Juvenile Justice Board to question the minors at the police station and not at the State-run Juvenile Home for lack of availability of certain facilities. However, the minors would have to be dropped back home by 5 p.m.

Rangayana courts controversy again over invite to RSS leader

Repertory chief Addanda C. Cariappa defends decision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Theatre repertoire Rangayana which was in the eye of a storm a few months ago over invitation to RSS ideologue, Venkataramu, to deliver a lecture during Bahurupi national theatre festival, is set to court controversy yet again.

For, the Rangayana director Addanda C. Cariappa has invited another right-wing activist to deliver a talk and the topic is: "Why I am in RSS". This is part of the theatre festival Grishma Rangayanothsava which will kick off from Sunday and the talk is slated to be held on June 17 at 4 p.m.

When questioned on the need for the talk by an RSS leader during a theatre festival, Mr. Cariappa justified

> **There is a lot of discussion revolving the Sangh Parivar in the current times in the State and hence the talk has been arranged to let people know more about it.**
>
> ADDANDA C. CARIAPPA
> Rangayana director

the move stating there was a lot of discussion revolving the Sangh Parivar in the current times in the State and hence the talk has been arranged to let people know more about it.

Asked whether he was not courting controversy, Mr. Cariappa said nothing was possible without controversy. He said Rangayana was "peddling leftist views" for 32 years and hence there was nothing wrong in learning about other views and ideologies as well.

His earlier decision to invite Chakravarthi Sulibele during Bahurupi led to a hue and cry with a section of amateur artistes and former directors staging a protest. There were a series of demonstrations by activists who called for sacking Mr. Cariappa from the Rangayana director's post.

Plays by students

Grishma Rangayanothsava will have plays by students of Bharateeya Ranga Shikshana Kendra at Rangayana. The festival will be held from June 12 to June 19 and the plays will be staged daily from 6.30 p.m.

Risky ride

No rules: In violation of road safety rules, a car on Karakatta Road in Vijayawada carries nearly a dozen people towards Amaravati on Saturday. • G.N. RAO

In Koppal, a contest for readers

KUMAR BURADIKATTI
KALABURAGI

Koppal district administration, in a bid to cultivate reading and critical thinking among children in particular, launched an initiative called 'Manvantara'. Enthused by the response, it has now launched a second edition of the programme called 'Manvantara 2'.

The programme is a competition for writing reviews of books selected by the administration. Meant for people from the district, the competition is divided into two categories: children and general.

Four books, two each in Kannada and English, have been selected for the childrens' category: *Chidambara Rahasya* (K.P. Purnachandra Tejaswi) and *Marali Mannige* (Shivaram Karanth) in Kannada and *Becoming* - Adopted for Younger Readers (Michelle Obama) and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (J.K. Rowling) in English have been chosen. For the general category, the chosen books are: *Malegalalli Madumagalu* (Kuvempu) and *Grahabhanga* (S.L. Bhyrappa) in Kannada, and *The Glass Palace* (Amitav Ghosh) and *Ikigai: Japanese Art of staying Young... While Growing Old* (Keira Miki) in English.

A taluk-level committee will select the two best write-ups on each book and send them to a district-level evaluation panel. The district committee will shortlist the best two for each book. It will then call the shortlisted candidates for interviews and select the winners. The first prize will carry ₹20,000 in cash followed by a second prize with ₹10,000, and a third prize with ₹5,000. Those who are not selected for the interview will get consolation prize of ₹2,000. The best review of the English work would carry a special prize of ₹15,000 in cash.

Novel way to tackle plastic menace

Poothrikka panchayat hosts a new kind of 'ecobrick park' set up by NSS cadre

M.P. PRAVEEN
KOCHI

At first glance, a new park that has come up in Poothrikka panchayat in Kerala's Ernakulam district looks no different from any other park.

It is only when the inscription 'ecobrick park' is noticed that it piques one's interest. Ecobricks are plastic bottles filled with used plastic.

Soon, it emerges that what look like cement basements of five trees are made up of such ecobricks, so as a couple of benches. Eight rock-like objects used for seating people also have inside them ecobricks with a concrete and sand mixture as an exterior shield. As a couple of them got deflated by rough use, they were

'Parked' plastic: The 'ecobrick park' at the St. Peter's Higher Secondary School in Ernakulam. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

further bolstered with stones and cement.

The park was the initiative of the National Service Scheme (NSS) of St. Peter's Higher Secondary School, Kolenchery. "We used 1,762 plastic bottles and used plastic weighing nearly 350 kg for setting up the park," said A. Ambily, NSS programme manager of the school.

NSS volunteers collected plastic from their households, nearby roads, Kolenchery town, and even from the neighbouring Thiruvaniyoor panchayat. "It wasn't easy filling the plastic bottles with plastic and compressing them with a stick. While light weight plastic covers could be rolled into the bottle comparatively easily, thicker plastic bags had to be shredded into pieces," said Ms. Ambily.

That NSS volunteers turned it into a competition of sorts helped. Towards the end, there was a dearth of plastic leaving the volunteers to fill 300 bottles with sand and five with cement.

The park also features a resting place for birds, a garden of 13 fruit trees, a pond, a windmill, and figurines made up of other things, including used tyres.

Amaravati farmers offer prayers at newly built TTD temple in A.P.

They raised slogans of 'Build Amaravati', 'Save Amaravati'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Farmers from 29 villages located in the Amaravati capital region and leaders of the Amaravati Joint Action Committee (JAC) on Saturday visited the Sri Venkateswara temple built recently by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) at Venkatapalem in Andhra Pradesh and prayed for the deity's blessings in realisation of their long-cherished wish to see Amaravati as the sole and only capital of Andhra Pradesh. They raised slogans of "Build Amaravati" and "Save Amaravati".

Referring to the recent farmers' 45-day-long maha padayatra from Amaravati to Tirumala, they said it had coincided with a verdict given by the State High Court on the Amaravati issue in favour of the farmers.

They said the overall development of Amaravati as the capital of the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh State was the aspiration of five crore people of the State and the JAC would take their prolonged struggle to its logical end.

Mass worship: Farmers praying at the Sri Venkateswara temple at Venkatayapalem on Saturday. • G.N. RAO

FROM PAGE ONE

Home Ministry issues advisory to States

About two dozen people, including 10 policemen, were injured in the clash between the protesters and the police in Ranchi on Friday. The condition of three injured persons violence is critical, said the authorities at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday. Prohibitory orders were imposed in several parts of the State capital. Internet was blocked in affected areas.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren appealed to people to maintain peace and ordered a high-level probe into the violence.

Yogi's warning

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned of strictest action against those attempting to vitiate the atmosphere. Bulldozers were seen in action in Kanpur where a multi-storey building, owned allegedly by a close aide of the main accused arrested in connection with last week's violence, was demolished.

The J&K police on Saturday arrested Faisal Wani, a YouTuber who made a video of virtual beheading of Ms. Sharma, even as he tendered an apology and deleted the video.

A curfew clamped in parts of Jammu's Chenab valley remained in force on Saturday.

In Maharashtra's Aurangabad, over 100 protesters were booked for unlawful assembly following a demonstration calling for arrests of Ms. Sharma and Mr. Kumar. In Nashik, a large number of protesters gathered in front of a police station on Saturday, demanding action against a netizen for allegedly posting derogatory material about Prophet Muhammed.

In the wake of the protests, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said he had directed the police to take all precautions to maintain law and order in the State.

(With agency inputs)

Shah seeks quick action on rape cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the western zonal council meeting in Diu on Saturday attended by Pramod Sawant and Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Ministers of Goa and Gujarat, and Praful K. Patel, the administrator of the Union Territory of Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was not present. The State was represented by Industries Minister Subhash Desai instead. Mr. Desai said in a tweet that he raised the issue of granting classical language status to Marathi.

A press statement issued by the Home Ministry said Mr. Shah stressed the need for early investigation of rape and sexual offences against women and children and stringent punishment in a time-bound manner. Mr. Shah said ADGP-level officers, if possible women, should monitor the probe into such cases in the police headquarters of each State.

Mamata calls Opposition meet; Left says it's a unilateral move

Congress says Sonia had taken the lead in devising a strategy for presidential poll

SANDEEP PHUKHAN
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee's letter to other Opposition leaders on Saturday, inviting them for a meeting in Delhi on June 15 to formulate a common strategy for the July 18 presidential elections could end up dividing the Opposition ranks.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI general secretary D. Raja questioned the need for shooting off such a "unilateral" letter without prior consultation with others.

The Congress's communication chief, Randeep Surjewala, said party president Sonia Gandhi had taken the lead to reach out to several Opposition leaders, including Ms. Banerjee, and stressed that the party, along with others, can take the process forward.

"The time is ripe to rise above our differences for the sake of our nation and its people. Discussions and deliberations have to be open-minded and in keeping with this spirit, we believe that INC [Indian National Congress] along with other political parties should be taking this discussion forward," Mr. Surjewala said.

> **Mamata Banerjee shot off a letter unilaterally. This is highly unusual. The focus is to unite maximum Opposition parties. Any unilateral action will ensure only the opposite, harm Opposition unity**
>
> SITARAM YECHURY
> CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

Ms. Banerjee's move comes days after Congress president Sonia Gandhi took the lead in calling up top Opposition leaders such as Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, besides the West Bengal Chief Minister. Ms. Gandhi appointed Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to liaise with other Opposition leaders.

However, on Saturday, the Trinamool Congress tweeted, "Our hon'ble chairperson @MamataOfficial calls upon all progressive Opposition forces to meet and deliberate on the future course of action keeping the presidential elections in sight, at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on June 15 2022 at 3 PM." Many in the Opposition viewed the letter as an attempt to score a political point by trying to portray the Trinamool as the central player in the Opposition space. While the Congress did not join issues with the letter publicly, Mr. Yechury said that a meeting of Opposition leaders such as Ms. Gandhi, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Stalin, Mr. Pawar had been fixed for June 15.

"Mamata Banerjee shot off a letter unilaterally. This is highly unusual. The focus is to unite maximum Opposition parties. Any unilateral action will ensure only the opposite, harm Opposition unity," Mr. Yechury said.

"Convening such a meeting without prior consultation is not advisable. The situation demands unity of all secular and progressive forces," Mr. Raja said.

"The Congress party is of the opinion that the Nation needs a person as President who can protect the Constitution, our institutions and citizenry from the ongoing onslaught by the ruling party," Mr. Surjewala added.

Appeal in SC on petition against Soren

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Jharkhand government has moved the Supreme Court against an order passed by the High Court accepting the maintainability of a plea seeking probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren for alleged irregularities in granting mining leases and the transactions of shell companies said to be owned by his family members and close associates.

In a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed in the Supreme Court in 2022, it was claimed that several shell companies were formed to launder money siphoned off from different welfare funds meant for Jharkhand. Mr. Sharma, in his petition, had also alleged that Mr. Soren and his family members and close acquaintances were involved in the formation of these shell companies. Mr. Sharma had sought investigation by the CBI and the ED into the allegations of corruption, misuse of office and money laundering.

After BJP win, blame game begins in Maharashtra

"We also need to accept that Devendra Fadnavis managed to bring Independent MLAs to his side. We couldn't do that," Mr. Pawar said, adding that the result won't affect the stability of MVA.

"Some MLAs who had earlier supported MVA came to us and requested not to withdraw our third candidate. They told us that they wanted to show their power to the CM," Mr. Fadnavis said at a press conference on Saturday.

Seven candidates were in the fray for six seats from Maharashtra. The BJP staked claim on three seats while the MVA fielded four candidates. The battle for sixth seat was between Sanjay Pawar (Sena) and Dhananjay Mahadik (BJP).

In the first round, Imran Pratapgarhi of Congress (44 votes), Praful Patel of NCP (43 votes), Sanjay Raut of Sena (41 votes) and Piyush Goyal and Anil Bonde (both BJP) (with 48 votes each) were declared winners. The quota for the victory was 41 votes. Mr. Pawar and Mr. Mahadik won 33 and 27 seats first choice votes respectively. Mr Mahadik received seven extra votes each from Mr. Goyal and Mr. Bonde, ensuring his victory.

The poll process witnessed a delay of over nine hours for counting to start due to a demand to cancel votes, appeal for the same to the Central Election Commission and micro-management by the BJP which helped it to win this battle of prestige.

The results also show that the BJP has managed to snatch at least 10 votes from the MVA. Independents and smaller parties which had earlier pledged allegiance to the MVA seem to have backtracked on the word and voted for the BJP.

Mr. Raut, who rejected the theory of discontent against Mr. Thackeray said that the shift of vote was purely a result of horse-trading. Mr. Raut named independent MLAs Devendra Bhuyar, Shyamsunder Shinde, Sanjay Shinde and three others of Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) for voting to the BJP. Mr. Bhuyar however rejected the claims.

According to sources, BVA's president and MLA Hitendra Thakur and MLA Sanjay Shinde are under the ED scanner. Mr. Thakur after voting had said that he has voted for the winning side.

Nagaland Police file case against 30 Army personnel

Violation of procedures resulted in Mon killings: DGP

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Thirty personnel from the Army's 21 Para Special Forces, including a Major, have been named in the chargesheet submitted to the courts in connection with the botched encounter in Nagaland's Mon district in December 2021 that resulted in the death of 13 civilians, according to the Nagaland Police.

A file photo of protests after the killings of civilians in Nagaland in 2021. • AP

"A professional and thorough investigation was carried out by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in this case," Nagaland Director-General of Police (DGP) T. J. Longkumer said at a press conference at the Chumoukedima police complex on Saturday. "Investigation has revealed that the ops team [21 Para Special Forces] had not followed the standard operating procedure (SOP) and rules of engagement, and resorted to indiscriminate and disproportionate firing leading to the immediate killing of the six occupants of the vehicle [a Bolero] on the spot, and grievously injuring two persons," Mr. Longkumer said. A case under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against 30 personnel of the operations team of 21 Para SF, which includes one Major, two Subedars, eight Havildars, four Naiks, six Lance Naiks and nine Paratroopers.

The investigation in the case has been completed and the chargesheet was submitted to the District and Sessions Court, Mon on May 30, 2022, the Nagaland Police said in a statement.

The statement further said that in the Crime Investigation Department's report, the SIT had also made various observations with regard to the manner in which the operation was carried out

Various types of evidence, including relevant important documents from different authorities and sources; scientific opinions from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) Guwahati, Hyderabad and Chandigarh; and technical evidence from the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, were collected during the course of the investigation.

In addition to the SIT, the Army had constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by an officer of the rank of Major General.

A separate FIR has been registered against unknown persons to investigate the death of the Paratrooper, assault on other personnel of the 21 Para SF, and damage to government property, based on a complaint filed by 21 Para SF.

Targeted killings are acts of desperation: J&K L-G

Terrorism on its last leg in Kashmir Valley, says Manoj Sinha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said the recent targeted killings were aimed at provoking security forces and eventually fuelling street protests, "as militancy is on its last leg in the Kashmir Valley".

"These acts were out of desperation. When a candle is about to extinguish, it flicks intensely. Our security forces have gone all out against them. Terrorism in is its last stage in J&K," Mr. Sinha, who inaugurated the Eklavya Model Residential School, and laid the foundation stone for a new Tribal Youth Hostel at Kulgam, said.

He said the killings of innocent people were "well-planned to provoke police and security forces to commit a mistake and create a situation for street protests".

"We won't fall prey to such nefarious designs. The police and security forces won't even touch any innocent. We follow the policy

L-G Manoj Sinha

don't spare the culprit and don't touch the innocent," Mr. Sinha said.

Responsibility of society

The L-G said development was not possible amid violence. He said it was the responsibility of society "to condemn target killings of innocents in Kashmir, like the teachers who shape the future of society."

"People should condemn the act of killing a female teacher. If they don't come forward, they are backing out from their responsibility," he added.

Nine civilians were killed in targeted killings by militants in Kashmir in May and sparked a wave of fear among the members of the minority communities.

Militant shot dead

Meanwhile, the security forces on Saturday said they killed a Hizbul Mujahideen militant in south Kashmir's Kulgam.

"One terrorist of the Hizbul Mujahideen was killed during an operation at Khandipora in Kulgam," a police spokesperson said.

In a separate incident, an improvised explosive device (IED) was defused on the Srinagar-Baramulla national highway in north Kashmir.

Officials said the IED was planted near Hygam in Sopore on the Srinagar-Baramulla national highway and was detected by the security forces on Thursday morning.

Later, a bomb disposal squad defused the IED. However, the traffic remained suspended on the highway till the squad's operation was over.

Cricket gets a rising star in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's T-20 captain Chamari Athapaththu is her idol. "I want to play like her," Ms. Kalaiyarasi says.

On Saturday morning, Ms. Kalaiyarasi was meeting her coach at a ground in Vaddakkachchi, about 10 km and two military check points away from Kilinochchi town that was once the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) administrative capital. Thirteen years after the war ended, armed military men can be spotted along several roads in Sri Lanka's Tamil majority north and east.

It was not a scheduled practice session, as her coach was training a boys' volleyball team at the time. "In our society, it is rare to see parents supporting a girl child to pursue a sporting career. But Kalaiyarasi's parents are an exception," Mr. Priyadharshan notes. Behind her steady rise in cricket and now intense coaching routine is their hard labour.

Her father, a daily wage worker in agricultural farms, runs the household, caring for her and her two younger siblings, while her mother left for Kuwait seven months ago, taking up a job as a domestic worker mainly to support her daughter's training.

Until recently, Kalaiyarasi didn't own a good pair of shoes and even now, rarely eats three meals. "No matter what, he fully supports me. At times, neighbours in my village would comment on my wearing shorts and trousers all the time. But my father never told me what girls should dress like or do. Whenever he has the money, he buys me a pair of trousers." Her father's support is especially valuable when schools and the wider community see girls taking to sports as unnecessary.

In Sri Lanka's post war years, national sports are beginning to see some diversity, according to Mr. Priyadharshan, citing Jaffna-born cricketer Vijayakanth Viyaskanth, now a familiar name in the Lanka Premier League, as an example.

Despite good talent and committed coaches, sports infrastructure remains grossly inadequate in Sri Lanka's north, sportspeople from the area have often noted.

"Even in Kalaiyarasi's school, we had to make the cricket pitch ourselves, laying the gravel and levelling it," Mr. Priyadharshan said, hoping that Ms. Kalaiyarasi's feat would prompt schools to take sports seriously.

ED marks assets worth ₹1,250 cr. in terror cases

Properties valued at ₹884 cr. attached

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into terrorism-related cases has resulted in the identification of properties worth about ₹1,250 crore as proceeds of alleged crimes under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

While assets valued at ₹884 crore currently stand attached, the others worth ₹98 crore have been confiscated under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

The ED has taken action with respect to more than 250 properties in different parts of the country and filed 37 prosecution complaints (chargesheets) against the accused persons.

A prominent case is the one against international drug trafficker Iqbal Mirchi, who died in the United Kingdom in 2013. He had close links with the syndicate headed by now Pakistan-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

The agency has so far identified "proceeds of crime" to the tune of ₹1,000 crore in the case, involving 27 properties. They include a hotel in Dubai, some properties in the United Kingdom, four hotels in Delhi, 15 properties in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra and a cluster of properties in Cyprus Valley. The ED has attached assets worth ₹799 crore, the others worth ₹97.99 crore have been confiscated by the special FEOA court.

Another money laundering case is against fugitive Zakir Naik and associated entities. The ED has so far identified "proceeds of crime" worth ₹193 crore and made attachments to the tune of ₹50.49 crore.

According to the agency, in the case against Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah and others, properties worth ₹2.08 crore were identified. The attachment value stood at ₹88.76 lakh. In six other J&K terror funding cases, assets worth ₹1.87 crore were detected and that worth ₹43.69 lakh attached.

In the cases against the terror outfits operating in the northeastern States, including NSCN(I-M) and NSCN(K), the attachment orders involve ₹12.42 crore.

BJP suspends Rajasthan MLA for cross-voting in RS polls

Shobharani said she was guided by her 'voice of conscience'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The BJP on Saturday suspended its Rajasthan MLA Shobharani Kushwah for cross-voting in favour of Congress candidate Pramod Tiwari in the Rajya Sabha elections to four seats from the State. Ms. Kushwah sprang a surprise by her act, which she said was guided by her "voice of conscience".

The BJP's central disciplinary committee issued notice to Ms. Kushwah, elected from the Dholpur constituency in the 2018 Assembly election, asking her to show cause why she should not be expelled from the party's primary membership. Ms. Kushwah was told that she had been suspended from the BJP's membership as well as all other responsibilities until an inquiry was completed.

The show-cause notice, signed by central disciplinary committee's member secretary Om Pathak, stated that Ms. Kushwah displayed "gross indiscipline" by defying the party whip and violated Rule 10-B of Article 25 of the BJP's constitution and rules. The MLA was given seven days' time to explain her conduct.

Victory high: Ashok Gehlot with Congress candidates during the Rajya Sabha election in Jaipur on Friday. • PTI

The BJP had fielded former Minister Ghanshyam Tiwari as its official candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls and extended support to media baron Subhash Chandra, who contested as an Independent. Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria and BJP State president Satish Poonia recommended action against Ms. Kushwah after she cross-voted.

Rumoured motive

A second-time MLA, Ms. Kushwah is the wife of former Bahujan Samaj Party MLA B.L. Kushwah, who is serving life imprisonment following his conviction in 2016 in a case of murder of a student leader.

Ms. Kushwah's cross-voting was being linked in political circles in Jaipur to her husband's imprisonment, even as she said after the polling that it was her own decision. After Mr. Kushwah's disqualification from the membership of the Assembly, the BJP had fielded Ms. Kushwah as its candidate in the byelection from Dholpur in early 2017, which she won.

She was again fielded by the BJP from the same seat in the 2018 Assembly election and she went on win to once again.

Maken's defeat exposes rift in Haryana unit

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The defeat of Congress nominee Ajay Maken in the Rajya Sabha elections due to cross-voting by Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi has come as a major embarrassment for the party.

The episode has exposed the fault lines in the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) that has been a battleground for three powerful political families: the Hoodas and the families of the late Bansi Lal and the late Bhajan Lal, whose son is Mr. Bishnoi.

While Mr. Bishnoi's defiance, after being ignored for the PCC chief post for being a non-Jat, reduced the Congress tally to 30, the party could have still won if another vote was not disqualified.

The Congress did not name which MLA's vote was disqualified but with speculation about Kiran Choudhry – the former Congress Legislature Party leader whose rivalry with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is well known – gaining ground, she issued a denial.

(With inputs from Vikas Vasudeva in Chandigarh)

Embers smoulder the day after; arrests, demolitions on

In many parts of the country, Internet was suspended, preventive detentions made and agitators later released; Chief Ministers appeal for peace and harmony

Bengal BJP president arrested on way to Howrah

Mamata alleges attempts to incite riots in the State

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Highway blocked: BJP workers in Dinjapur district protest against the arrest of Sukanta Majumdar on Saturday. PTI

As violent protests over offensive remarks directed at Prophet Muhammed continued to rage for the third day in West Bengal, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president Sukanta Majumdar was on Saturday arrested while he was on his way to Howrah district.

The police tried to dissuade the BJP leader from proceeding to Howrah, which has been witnessing violence since Thursday, but he was insistent. Mr. Majumdar's convoy was stopped near the toll plaza on Vivekananda Setu and he was arrested. He was taken to the Lalbazar police headquarters in a police vehicle.

Internet services remained suspended and prohibitory orders were imposed on Saturday in large parts of Howrah district after violent protests broke out against remarks on the Prophet made by BJP spokespersons, who have since been sacked.

Earlier in the day, there was a scuffle between BJP supporters and the West Bengal police as they prevented Mr. Majumdar from leaving his residence in Kolkata's New Town area. Mr. Majumdar had said that the police were trying to put him under house arrest. Soon after the arrest, BJP supporters under the leadership of Agnimitra Paul, MLA, and Priyanka Tibrewal gathered outside the Lalbazar police headquarters. Mr. Majumdar, along with his supporters, was released later in the day. According to the Kolkata Police, several BJP supporters were taken into preventive custody and later released.

Meanwhile, there was fresh violence at Panchala in Howrah, where protesters clashed with the police.

Several shops, a few houses, and an ATM were set on fire at Panchala on Saturday. Violence was also reported from Reginagar in Murshidabad district, where a mob threw stones and set some installations on fire later in the evening.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, said that there were attempts by some political parties to incite riots.

She said on Twitter: "Violent incidents have been taking place in Howrah for two days now. There are some political parties behind this and they want to incite riots; but this will not be tolerated and strict action will be taken against all of them. The BJP will sin, people will suffer?"

The Chief Minister had on Thursday appealed for calm and demanded the arrest of the suspended BJP spokespersons.

Officers transferred

On Saturday, Commissioner of Howrah City Police C. Sudhakar and Superintendent of Howrah Rural Police Soumya Roy were shunted out. Praveen Tripathi will be the new Howrah Police Commissioner and Swati Bhangalia will be the Superintendent of Police of Howrah Rural.

The State government had also suspended Internet services in the Rejinagar and Beldanga areas in Murshidabad district, which also witnessed violence till June 14.

Later in the evening, a BJP delegation met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. Mr. Dhankhar has been vocal about the situation and on Saturday pointed out that since June 9, "there has been awful administration failure that took no preventive and precautionary measures".

One more dead in Ranchi

Restrictions put in place in several affected areas

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

On watch: The police investigating the site of violence, a day after the clashes in Ranchi. PTI

Two people were killed and several injured in the violence in the main road area of Ranchi on Friday in protest against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma's controversial remarks against Prophet Muhammed.

For several hours, the police and people from the minority community clashed after Friday prayers.

The authorities at the State-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) hospital confirmed on Saturday that two people brought to the hospital had died of their injuries. Condition of three other injured persons are critical, the authorities said.

Nearly two dozen people, 10 of them policemen, were injured in the clash between people and the police. People were throwing stones at policemen who later fired in the air and resorted to baton-charge to chase away the violent mob.

Curfew imposed

The main road of Ranchi was put under curfew while Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was imposed in several parts of the State capital of Jharkhand.

"As many as eight rioters and four policemen have been injured in the incident. Police will identify those who were involved in violence, question them and take action against them, if found guilty," said Ranchi city police chief Anshuman Kumar.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren appealed for peace and harmony. "People of Jharkhand have always been very sensitive and tolerant. There is no need to panic," Mr. Soren said.

Taunts and trolls go on in WhatsApp groups

Two communities blame each other for riots in Kanpur

NIKHIL M. BABU
KANPUR

Sitting inside his confectionery near Parade Chowk in Kanpur, Abhishek Sahu, 40, unlocked his smartphone and opened a WhatsApp group of "friends". Among messages of "Jai Shri Ram" and "I support Nupur Sharma" with Ms. Sharma's photos, there were several videos of protests and police action.

One of the videos, which was shot at night after the communal violence in the area on June 3, purportedly shows a group of police personnel allegedly beating at least two Muslim men, who are crying out loud. The video also praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Virtual discussions

After the communal violence in Nai Sadak of Kanpur, the area is now under heavy security cover, and many such conversations and discussions have moved to WhatsApp.

Some Hindus were attacking Muslims or supporting the BJP over WhatsApp messages. Meanwhile, some Muslims attacked Nupur Sharma or supported Zafar Hayat Hashmi, who had given the call for closing down shops in the area on June 3, according to WhatsApp conversations seen by *The Hindu*.

Both groups also have videos on the messaging platform through which they explain how the other community allegedly started the violence.

Following Friday prayers on June 3, there was violence in the area after a group of Muslims took out a march against comments made by Ms. Sharma about Prophet Muhammed. When the march reached a Hindu-dominated area in Nai Sadak, it turned violent and there was heavy stone throwing. Each community claims that the other started the violence.

The Kanpur Police have filed three FIRs, out of which two were based on information by police officials. As many as 36 persons were named in one FIR and 20 in the second one – all of them are Muslims. Since then, the Uttar Pradesh has arrested 55 people and most of them are Muslims.

Meanwhile, Sanskar Sahu, 21, who runs a stall which sells *lassi* at the Parade Chowk also had several videos in his WhatsApp chat. One of the videos is a meme, in which people wearing skullcaps can be initially seen throwing stones. After that a message "A few moments later" is shown on the screen and it subsequently shows another video clip in which a youth wearing a skullcap and white kurta is being beaten and taken away by the police.

WhatsApp messages of Laiq Ahmed, 52, and others showed messages to boycott some Hindu shops in the area.

YouTuber sorry for clip on 'beheading'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir police on Saturday arrested Faisal Wani, a Kashmiri YouTuber who made a video of a "virtual beheading" of suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma, even as he tendered an apology online and withdrew the video.

Mr. Wani has been charged under Sections 505 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code for "intending to cause harm" and "criminal intimidation". The police lodged a first information report (FIR) at the Safa Kadal Police Station in Srinagar.

Mr. Wani posted another video and apologised, saying he "did not have any intention of hurting the sentiments of people or any religion". He also deleted the video on the BJP leader.

In U.P., BJP members seek 'revenge by bulldozer'

Government razes down building in Kanpur

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Police personnel look for illegal structures at Atala area in Prayagraj on Saturday. PTI

A Prayagraj-based political activist Javed Mohammad was among 255 persons arrested across eight districts in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the stone-throwing and illegal gathering during protests after Friday prayers.

The highest number of arrests were in Prayagraj (68), followed by Saharanpur (64), Hathras (50), Ambedkar Nagar (28), Moradabad (27), Firozabad (13), Aligarh (3) and Jalaun (2).

As the State government intensified its crackdown on Muslim protesters on Saturday, several members of the ruling BJP, including its state president Swatantra Dev Singh, endorsed using bulldozers to demolish the properties of the accused persons.

In Prayagraj, where protestors engaged in stone-throwing on the police following Friday namaaz in the Atala area, the police arrested 68 persons and said properties of the accused would be demolished on the basis of evidence.

The police said Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump had organised the protest and blamed him for the "conspiracy." Mr. Javed is a member of the federal committee of the Welfare Party of India, headed by SQR Ilyas, father of jailed JNU student leader Umar Khalid.

Mr. Ilyas said Mr. Javed's arrest was illegal. "We demand his immediate and unconditional release," said Mr. Ilyas.

Police said a "big conspiracy" had been thwarted and added Mr. Javed's mobile phone would be sent for a forensic analysis as they found several phone numbers on it had been deleted.

ADG Law and Order Prashant Kumar said the damage caused to public and private property during the clashes would be recovered from the accused. Their properties would be seized under the Gangsters Act, said the officer.

The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) on Saturday demolished a multi-storey building owned allegedly by a close aide of the main accused in the chaotic protests and stone pelting, police said.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and order) Anand Prakash Tiwari said that the KDA has demolished a four-storey residential building owned by Mohammad Ishtiyaq, who is said to be a close aide of prime accused Zafar Hayat Hashmi.

Mrityunjay Kumar, media adviser to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a tweet carrying a photo of a bulldozer demolishing a building posted a warning, "Unruly elements should remember that every Friday is followed by a Saturday."

U.P. BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh said those whose homes fall under the shadow of a bulldozer, don't throw stones at others.

BJP MLA Shalabh Mani Tripathi posted a video, purportedly of Saharanpur, in which policemen in uniform were seen beating up men in custody.

"A return gift to the rioters," said Mr. Tripathi on Twitter. His tweet evoked appreciation from his supporters but also condemnation from several users, including senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan. "Will these criminals in uniform be held liable for this brutality?" Mr. Bhushan tweeted.

Afreen Fatima, Mr. Javed's daughter, said police teams reached their house late on Friday and spoke to the family in an "aggressive and intimidating" manner.

"They tried to evict us from our house. We fear our house will be bulldozed," said Ms. Fatima in a video message.

(With PTI inputs)

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'e' Procurement Tender Notice No.17/2022-23/SE-W/EE-II(Works)/DB, Dt:09-06-2022
Number of works : 01 Work
Value of work : Rs.1,70,66,092.00
Downloading Starting Date : 13-06-2022
Closing Date : 28-06-2022
Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the EE-II Cell No:9948525297 xx//Sd//xx Superintending Engineer(W-I)

Government of India
Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET),
Fine Arts Avenue, Kochi – 682 016
Phone: 0484- 2351610, 2351493, 2351790
Fax: 0484-2370879 E-mail: cifnet@nic.in
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the advertisement in THE HINDU dated 07.05.2022 and EMPLOYMENT NEWS dated 14.05.2022 for the Admission Notification of BFSc(NS)/VNC/MFC courses conducted by CIFNET, the last date of receipt of the application is extended up to 05.07.2022. Further, the date of BFSc(NS) entrance examination which is scheduled to be conducted on 02.07.2022 has been postponed to 23.07.2022.
For more details visit our website www.cifnet.nic.in.
DIRECTOR

MoFPI
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT – THANJAVUR (NIFTEM-T)
An Institute of National Importance
(Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFPT)
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu
Tel.: 04362-228155 Email: director@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.niftem-t.ac.in
No: NIFTEM/Admin/Projects/2022 Date : 12.06.2022
VACANCY NOTIFICATION
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management – Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T) is inviting online applications from bright, dynamic and highly motivated candidates for the following time-bound and temporary positions:

S.No	Name of the Post	No.of Post	Place of Vacancy
1	Adjunct Faculty	01	NIFTEM-T@ Thanjavur
2	Research Associate	01	
3	Senior Research Fellow	03	
4	Senior Research Fellow	02	Liaison office, NIFTEM-T @ Guwahati

Application Fee: Rs.500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD/Women Candidates). For online application and further details on Age, Educational qualifications, Eligibility criteria, Emoluments, tenure and terms & conditions, visit our website: www.niftem-t.ac.in
Commencement of online application is on 15th June 2022 @ 10.00 am onwards.
Last date for the submission ONLINE application is 05th July 2022 @ 6.00 pm.
DIRECTOR

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
Website- www.rajseeds.org Phone No. (0141) 5106516, E-Mail- rajseedsgm@gmail.com
F6( )RSSC/Seed /2022-23/6840 Date :- 10/06/2022
Notice Inviting Bid
Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Limited, Jaipur invites Bids from interested Bidders for various supplies/works as follows:-

S. No.	Particulars of Procurement	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Last date and time of online submission of Tender	UBN
1	Supply of Dhencha CS/TL Seed	5.30 Crores	Up to 13.00 Noon 14.06.2022	SDS2223GLOB00018
2	Transportation Work	10.61 Crores	Up to 14.00 Noon 20.06.2022	SDS2223SLRC00017

Tender documents & Details are available on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, or www.rajseeds.org/agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/22/3303 Managing Director, (DIN 08383856)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 ; 2015)
(Dept.of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt.of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Phone: 044 - 27472113, 27472423. Mobile: 9444314716, Toll Free No: 18004250345 Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, eaponiepmd@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Tender (E-TENDER) for Rate Contract for purchase of Android / IOS Tablet and Daisy Players (Re-Tender)
NIEPMD invites E- Tender through NIC e-procurement portal URL http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app" in two bid system from reputed OEMs and their authorised suppliers & Distributors having proven track record in supplying Android / IOS tablets and Daisy Players to institutes / colleges / Special schools / NGOs. The e-tender details & document can also be downloaded from the NIEPMD website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. and NIC E-procurement portal: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Last date and Time for E-bidding	28.06.2022 (4.00 PM)
Date and Time of opening EOI	29.06.2022 (4.00 PM)

Sd/- Director

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, JAIPUR
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph.No. 0141-2223887, Fax: 0141-2228065 E-mail: adapmmsc-rj@nic.in
CIN: U24232RJ2011SGC035067 Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F-8( )RMSC/EPM/M-1/2021-22/NIB/189 Date: 09.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for Item Dialysis Machine (Haemodialysis Machine) are invited from interested bidders up to 29.06.2022 ; 06:00 p.m. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
UBN-MSC2122GLRC00147
Executive Engineer (EPM) RMSCL, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/3265/2022-2023

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in,
E-Mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, TNMSC Ltd., from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria in the tender document for the supply of Sodium Chloride Inj IP to TNMSC Ltd., under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance.

Tender Reference No.	007/M(P)/IV-FLUID/ TNMSC/2022, Dated. 13.06.2022
Tender Document Sale Period	13.06.2022 to 22.06.2022
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	23.06.2022 upto 11.00 AM
Date and time of opening	23.06.2022 at 11.30 AM

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in on free of cost.
DIPR/2728/Tender/2022 General Manager (Drugs)

RIS
Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली
OPENINGS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
RIS, an autonomous policy research institute, specialized in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment, technology and finance, is looking for the services of young, dynamic and motivated Research Assistants on contractual basis for its policy research programme studies.
Requirements: M.A. in Economics, with at least 55% marks, from a recognized university, as a regular student
Age: Not more than 30 years
Desirable: Two years research experience in data analysis and acquaintance in quantitative techniques Quality communication skills, innovative thinking and capability to apply contemporaneous knowledge to policy relevant research, and commitment to work efficiently.
Nature of engagement: Initially for one year, with a probation of three months, and subsequent renewal of tenure subject to performance review.
Remuneration: Rs. 61,818/- per month, all inclusive.
Interested candidates may send their application, along with CV, to RIS at Email: recruitment@ris.org.in, latest by two weeks from the date of advertisement. Detailed ad may be viewed from RIS website: www.ris.org.in

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AWARD OF DBT – RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2022-2023
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the award of "DBT-Research Associateship" for pursuing research in frontier areas of Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The Associateship is tenable in Premier Research Institutions/ Universities including non-profit R&D Institutions within India. The Associateships are awarded under the "DBT-Research Associateship" programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.
Start Date of Online Application : 15th June, 2022
End Date of Online Application : 15th July, 2022
For further details and application process, interested applicants may kindly visit DBT-RA website: https://ra.dbtindia.gov.in/.
Interested and eligible applicants from North East Region are also encouraged to apply.
For any queries, please contact DBT-HRD Project & Management Unit, Regional Centre for Biotechnology at ra.dbt@rcb.res.in.

IN BRIEF

Mongolia to get Buddha relics for display

NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju will lead a 25-member delegation to Mongolia carrying Lord Buddha's relics to mark the Mongolian Buddha Day on June 14. The sacred relics will be taken by an Indian Air Force C17 Globemaster transport aircraft in a special casket and will be on display at a monastery for 11 days. Mr. Rijiju told presspersons here that the Kapilavastu relics had "AA stature" and were not moved out of the National Museum here. But on the special request of the Mongolian government, New Delhi decided to send these for exposition. PTI

Indian envoy hands over hospital to Tajik officials

NEW DELHI

The Indian envoy to Tajikistan on Saturday handed over a 'friendship hospital' to the Tajik authorities, the Indian embassy said. "On behalf of the Government of India, Ambassador of India to Tajikistan Viraj Singh handed over the India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital to Deputy Defence Minister of Tajikistan Major General Shohiyon Abdusottor on June 11. The entire complement of medical equipment, medicines, including operation theatre, x-ray machines, laboratories, critical care ambulances and vehicles, were handed over to the Tajik side," it said. PTI

Centre hikes notary strength in 17 States

NEW DELHI

The Union government has enhanced the total strength of notaries in 17 States and Union Territories, Union Minister of State for Law S.P. Singh Baghel said on Saturday. In a tweet, Mr. Baghel said now Andhra Pradesh would have 1,700 central notaries, while Gujarat would have 8,000. Similarly, their numbers would go up in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab , Rajasthan, West Bengal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Puducherry. PTI

Indian diplomat is UN chief's technology envoy

UNITED NATIONS

Senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General as his Envoy on Technology. Mr. Gill, who was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016 to 2018, is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. PTI

After 103 days, India's COVID-19 numbers cross 8,000-mark

Active cases rise by 4,103, positivity rate is 2.41%; five deaths reported from Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A single-day rise of over 8,000 fresh COVID-19 cases was recorded in India after 103 days, pushing while the count of active cases jumped to 40,370, Union Health Ministry data showed on Saturday.

A total of 8,329 new cases were reported in the 24 hours to 8 a.m. on Saturday, with 10 fatalities – five from Kerala, two from Delhi and one each from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The active cases rose by 4,103 in the 24 hours, the data showed.

The daily positivity rate was 2.41% and the weekly positivity rate 1.75%. The case fatality rate was 1.21%.

Data released by Delhi's Health Department on Saturday said 795 new cases were recorded in the city on Saturday and zero deaths. The positivity rate increased to 4.11%, it said. On Thursday and Friday, daily cases were reported in excess of 600 and positivity rate stood at over 3%. The number of active cases increased to 2,247 from 2,008 on Friday.

Seventeen districts in the country, including seven in Kerala and five in Mizoram, are reporting a weekly positivity rate of over 10%, while in 24, including seven in Kerala and four each in Maharashtra and Mizoram, it was between 5% and 10%, an official source said.

On the move: A healthcare worker taking nasal swab of a pushcart vendor for a COVID-19 test in Jammu on Saturday. • PTI

India-Russia deal on radio equipment

RTS signs contract with AAI to supply 34 sets of instrument landing system

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Radio technical Systems (RTS) of Russia has signed a large-scale contract with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the supply of radio equipment.

The Russian company will manufacture 34 sets of instrument landing system (ILS) 734 for the modernisation of 24 airports in India, the Russian Embassy in India said. The contract comes amid the war in Ukraine and pressure from the West on India to diversify its dependence for defence needs.

"The domestic manufacturer received the right to conclude a contract based on the results of a global tender, in which, in addition to RTS, the world's largest suppliers of radio equipment took part," the Embassy said in a statement, which was put up on its website, on Friday.

"The increased interest of leading manufacturers in the competition is due to the scale of the project: this lot for the purchase of landing systems has become the largest in the world over the past few years."

According to the contract, the first part of landing systems ILS-734 must be shipped before November. Payments within the transaction will be carried out in national currencies, the statement said, without specifying the contract value.

"The contract between RTS and AAI has become a breakthrough for Russian business in the highly competitive market of ground-based radio equipment in India. There is no doubt that the successful execution of the contract will open up new opportunities for the implementation of joint projects to modernise Indian airport infrastructure," Russian Ambassador in India Denis Alipov was quoted as saying in the statement.

Officials of Radio Technical Systems signing deals with Airport Authority of India officials on Friday. • TWITTER/@RUSEMBINDIA

Places of Worship Act and the contesting claims

Muslim bodies say changes to it will damage secular fabric

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The legal battle over the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, which underlines the need to protect the liberty of faith and worship, is gaining steam in the Supreme Court.

Several petitions have been filed in the top court questioning the law's role, as they say in perpetuating the "crimes of the barbaric invaders" who built mosques after destroying temples centuries ago. The Muslim bodies, such as the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, have countered that a dent in the 1991 Act would be the first blow to the secular fabric.

Harbinger of litigation

Jamiat, significantly, is using the Ayodhya judgment, seen as the harbinger of the slew of litigation concerning other mosques, to buttress its case in support of the 1991 Act.

The Muslim body stressed that the Ayodhya verdict, which upheld the Places of Worship Act, had noted that "historical wrongs cannot be remedied by people taking the law into their own hands".

In the Ayodhya judgment, the court had categorically held that the law cannot be used as a device to reach back in time and provide a legal remedy to every person who disagrees with the course which history has taken. The courts of today cannot take cognisance of historical rights and wrongs.

In fact, the Ayodhya judgment had held that the "Supreme Court cannot entertain claims that arise from actions of the Mughal rulers against Hindu places of worship in a court of law today".

Jamiat has reminded the Supreme Court how even during the hearing of the Ayodhya case there was a "list of numerous mosques doing the rounds on social media, alleging that the said mosques were built allegedly by destroying Hindu places of worship". It argued that entertaining petitions challenging the validity of the 1991 Act would open the floodgates and widen the "religious divide from which the country is recovering in the aftermath of the Ayodhya dispute".

But the court's recent oral observations in the Gyanvapi case has not helped. The court had not intervened in the survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises, and said that a mere "ascertainment of the religious character of a place is not barred by the 1991 Act".

As regards the finding of articles identified with another religion on the premises of a place of worship, the court had said that "this hybrid character is not unknown in India".

'Character of land'

Within days of these observations, advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who has challenged the 1991 Act separately, moved an application to implead himself in the Gyanvapi case.

He argued that demolition of a temple's structure and subsequent offerings of *namaz* did not change the character of a land where once a temple stood.

He said a mosque constructed on temple land cannot be a mosque and is against Islamic law.

His petition squarely blamed the 1991 Act of "validating the illegal and barbarous action of invaders".

Another petition filed by Anil Kabotra in the Supreme Court takes on an identical note by saying that mosques have to be constructed on "legally owned" and "virgin land".

"Temple's religious character does not change after demolition of roof, walls, pillars, foundation and even offering *namaz*. After the *Pran Pratishtha* of the idol, a temple is always a temple."

A petition by Devkinandan Thakur echoes the same notions of "historic wrong".

"It is a historical fact that in 1192, the invader Mohammad Ghori after defeating Prithviraj Chauhan established Islamic rule and foreign rule continued up to August 15, 1947... therefore, any cut-off date could be the date on which India was conquered by Ghori and the religious places of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs as were existing in 1192 have to be restored with same glory," Mr. Thakur said.

Time travel: At the Gyanvapi mosque. In the Ayodhya judgment, the court had held that the law cannot be used as a device to reach back in time. • PTI

'Why is DCP's nod required for filing POCSO FIRs?'

Child rights activists in Mumbai call the circular issued by police 'ridiculous', and say it overrides the objectives of the law

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

Child rights activists and lawyers representing children in cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are "perplexed" by a circular issued by Mumbai police chief Sanjay Pandey, making it mandatory for permission from the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) before registering an FIR in such cases.

"How can a circular override the law," asked Maharukh Adenwalla, advocate and child rights campaigner. "The commissioner's circular is contrary to the Union government's legislation. What evidence is there to show that false complaints are filed under POCSO?"

Difficult to register FIR

She went on to say, "The circular does not realise how difficult it is to register an FIR in these cases where the accused is often known to the family. What message are we giving out to society, that 'children are lying'? Why is there a narrative that only focuses on how laws for women and children are being misused?"

> **The circular is clear violation of POCSO Act. I don't know the intention behind it... This will create problems for the victim**
>
> FARIDA LAMBAY
> Pratham NGO

"The circular is overriding the objective of the law, it is just 'ridiculous'. The law has mandated the registration of an FIR when a complaint is received. So by adding the condition of getting the DCP's permission, the accused will get ample time to threaten and pressure the victim and her family. No one has thought of the trauma of a child who has shown courage by coming to the police, and now there are these layers before filing an FIR," said Priti Patkar, director of the non-government organisation (NGO) Prerana that works to protect children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

Farida Lambay, founder trustee at Pratham, an NGO that works for underprivileged children, said she was "perplexed" by the circular.

"The circular is in clear violation of POCSO Act. I don't know the intention behind it... why the decision was suddenly taken. I am perplexed! This will create more problems for the victim and her family."

Against POCSO Act

Advocate Persis Sidhva, who works with the Rati Foundation that works to create spaces for children safe from sexual violence, said the circular was not in accordance with the POCSO Act.

"When the police receive information about an offence, an FIR has to be registered immediately. This circular is a great disservice and is contrary to the law. In all the time that is taken to get the permission from the DCP, the accused, who is more often than not known to the accused and the family, will threaten the child and more time will be lost. Who was consulted before taking out the circular."

New norms for celebrity endorsements

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government has tightened norms for endorsers, including celebrities and sportspersons, as they are now required to make material connection disclosures and undertake due diligence while doing advertisements.

According to new guidelines released by the Consumer Affairs Ministry on Friday, endorsements must reflect the honest opinions, belief or experience of the endorsers. The endorsers have to make material connection disclosures and failing to do so will attract penalty under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). Material disclosures mean any relationship that materially affects the weight or credibility of any endorsement which a reasonable consumer would not expect.

"If there exists a connection between the endorser and the trader, manufacturer or advertiser of the endorsed product that might materially affect the value or credibility of the endorsement and the connection is not reasonably expected by the audience, such connection shall be fully disclosed in making the endorsement," the guidelines said.

Violation of these guidelines will attract a penalty of ₹10 lakh for the first offence and ₹50 lakh for the subsequent offence, under the CPA. The new guidelines "Prevention of misleading advertisements and necessary due diligence for endorsement of advertisements", which came into effect on June 10, 2022, have been issued to prevent misleading advertisements.

SUDOKU

	5	2		3	4			8
7			6	8		2		
	4		9					
	9							1
	7	3		5		6	2	
4							9	
					3		8	
		8		9	2			3
3			5	7		1	6	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.555466 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	1	3	2	6	8	9	5
2	8	9	5	7	4	1	6	3
6	3	5	1	8	9	7	2	4
8	2	6	4	9	7	3	5	1
3	5	4	8	1	2	9	7	6
9	1	7	6	3	5	4	8	2
5	7	3	9	6	1	2	4	8
4	9	8	2	5	3	6	1	7
1	6	2	7	4	8	5	3	9

Pakistan hopes for relief on FATF sanctions

Diplomatic sources say 'significant momentum' amongst US and allies on issue

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Pakistan is hoping for some reprieve as the international watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) begins meetings on Monday in Berlin ahead of its plenary session from June 14 to 17.

Announcing the meeting, the FATF secretariat said that delegates would discuss "the progress made by some jurisdictions identified as presenting a risk to the financial system", referring to entities on the grey list, including Pakistan and 22 other countries.

According to media reports in Pakistan, the new PML(N)-led government is pulling out all the stops in sending its high profile Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, to lead the delegation this week that will make Pakistan's case for being taken off the "grey list" of countries of "jurisdictions under increased monitoring".

In particular, government sources on Aaj and ARY media networks indicate that Pakistan is confident it has "completed" its task list, particularly after the sentencing of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed in April 2022 for a term of 32 years, adding to a previous term of 36 on several counts of terrorism and terror financing.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials declined to comment on FATF deliberations, which are held in complete secrecy. However, at least two diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* that this time around, there is "significant momentum" among the U.S. and its "five eyes" intelligence alliance with the U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as some European nations to begin the process of removing Pakistan from the grey list. This would mean accepting that Pakistan has completed two separate task lists of 27 tasks and seven tasks, on action against terror financing and money laundering, respectively, and proposing an in-country "site visit" by FATF delegations to confirm the findings. If that process goes smoothly, the sources said that a final call on removing Pakistan from the grey list would be taken at the next plenary from October 16 to 21.

The FATF's decision is also being watched for its political impact, as if Pakistan is judged positively in the session this week, it would be a significant shot in the arm for Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's government, that is grappling with financial restrictions from the grey listing as well as tough negotiations with the IMF on a bailout.

Experts have pointed to the warming of ties between Pakistan and the U.S. after they were virtually frozen all of last year as another positive sign, especially after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken invited the new Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend a special UN session and held bilateral talks in May 2022. Mr. Bhutto said in New York that his government was committed to action against terrorism and extremism, which he called a "a consistent, long-term and existential threat to all of us".

The sources pointed to a number of steps taken by Pakistan in the past year that have been taken into account by the latest FATF and Asia Pacific Group (APG) reports, including the conviction of Hafiz Saeed, and prosecution of Masood Azhar and arrest of about 300 other terrorists, the seizure of more than 1,100 properties owned by terror groups under the guise of running educational, medical and charitable trusts, ordinances and changes in law to bring Pakistan's anti-terrorism Act in line with international designations for terrorists as well as changes to money-laundering laws, and the freezing of bank accounts belonging to terror groups and their leaders. New Delhi has been sceptical of the efficacy and permanence of Pakistani actions on terror taken thus far, and its views will be taken into account at the consensus-led FATF as well.

Pakistan was previously on increased monitoring lists in 2008-09 and 2012-15. In 2015, it was removed from the grey list by international consensus within the 39-member grouping that India is a part of, and placed back on it in 2018 over a number of deficiencies in its legal and financing system, apart from acting as the safe havens for UN-designated terror groups.

While Pakistan was adjudged as making "significant progress" and completing 26 of 27 tasks last year, the FATF held that its failure to prosecute Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar was the one remaining task.

'China threatens Indo-Pacific security'

Austin says U.S. policy hasn't changed, but Beijing has stepped up military provocations against Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SINGAPORE

U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin stressed American support for Taiwan on Saturday, suggesting at Asia's premier defence forum that recent Chinese military activity around the self-governing island threatens to change the status quo.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Mr. Austin noted a "steady increase in provocative and destabilising military activity near Taiwan," including almost daily military flights near the island by the People's Republic of China.

"Our policy hasn't changed, but unfortunately that doesn't seem to be true for the PRC," he said.

Mr. Austin said Washington remains committed to the "one-China policy," which recognises Beijing but allows informal relations and defence ties with Taipei.

Trading charges: U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, left, at the Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore on Saturday. • AFP

Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China claims the island as its own territory and has not ruled out using military force to take it.

China has stepped up its military provocations against democratic Taiwan in recent years, aimed at intimidating it into accepting Beijing's demands to unify with the communist mainland.

"We remain focused on maintaining peace, stability and the status quo across the Taiwan Strait," Mr. Austin said in his address. "But the PRC's moves threaten to undermine security, and stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific."

He drew a parallel with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, saying that the "indefensible assault on a peaceful neighbour has galvanised the world and... has reminded us all of the dangers of undercutting an international order rooted in rules and respect."

Mr. Austin said the "rules-based international order matters just as much in the Indo-Pacific as it does in Europe."

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is what happens when oppressors trample the rules that protect us all," he said. "It's what happens when big powers decide that their imperial appetites matter more than the rights of their peaceful neighbours. And it's a preview of a possible world of chaos and turmoil that none of us would want to live in." r. Austin met on Friday with Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe on the sidelines of the conference for discussions where Taiwan featured prominently, according to a senior American defence official.

Mr. Austin made clear at the meeting that while the U.S. does not support Taiwanese independence, it also has major concerns about China's recent behavior and suggested that Beijing might be attempting to change the status quo.

Mr. Wei, meanwhile, complained to Mr. Austin about new American arms sales to Taiwan announced this week, saying it "seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests," according to a Chinese state-run *CCTV* report after the meeting.

China "firmly opposes and strongly condemns it," Mr. Wei told Mr. Austin.

Israeli strike caused damage to Damascus airport: Syria

Attack rendered the main runway unserviceable, it says

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DAMASCUS

An Israeli airstrike that struck Damascus International Airport caused "significant" damage to infrastructure and rendered the main runway unserviceable until further notice, Syria said on Saturday.

The statement by the Transportation Ministry was the first detailing the extent of damage from Friday's airstrike. Syrian media reported earlier that Syria suspended all flights to and from the airport and the Ministry confirmed all flights were suspended because "some technical equipment stopped functioning at the airport." Israel's military has declined to comment on the airstrike.

Saturday's statement said the runway had been damaged "in several locations" and that the strike also hit the airport's second terminal building.

"As a result of these damages, incoming and outgoing flights through the airport were suspended until further notice," it said.

The airport is located south of the capital Damascus where Syrian opposition activists say Iran-backed militiamen are active.

Israel has for years carried out strikes in the area, including one on May 21 that resulted in a fire near the airport leading to the postponement of two flights. This was the first time an airstrike caused damage leading to the suspension of flights at the airport.

Barely functional: The damaged runway at the Damascus International Airport in Syria on Friday. • AFP

Ex-Bolivian President convicted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LA PAZ

Bolivian ex-president Jeanine Anez was sentenced on Friday to 10 years in prison, more than a year after her arrest for an alleged plot – dismissed as fictional by many – to oust her rival and predecessor Evo Morales.

Ms. Anez, who has been held in pre-trial detention since March 2021, has consistently denounced what she calls political persecution.

The former interim leader will serve 10 years in a women's prison in La Paz, the administrative capital's First Sentencing Court announced.

Convicted of crimes "contrary to the constitution and a dereliction of duties," Ms. Anez was sentenced to "a punishment of 10 years" over accusations stemming from when she was a senator, before becoming President.

Australian PM agrees to pay France, ends submarine spat

It permits us to turn a page, says French Defence Minister

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australia unveiled a substantial compensation deal with French submarine maker Naval Group on Saturday, ending a contract dispute that soured relations between Canberra and Paris for almost a year.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the French firm had agreed to a "fair and an equitable settlement" of 555 million euros (US$584 million) for Australia ending a decade-old multi-billion-dollar submarine contract.

The agreement drew a line under a spat that caused leader-level recriminations and threatened to torpedo talks on an EU-Australia trade agreement.

"It permits us to turn a page in our bilateral relations with Australia and look to the future," said French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu.

Mr. Albanese said he would travel to France soon to "reset" a relationship beset by "pretty obvious" tensions.

Morrison's actions

The tussle began in September 2021, when Australia's then-Prime Minister Scott Morrison abruptly ripped up a long-standing contract with the French state-backed Naval to build a dozen diesel-powered submarines.

He also stunned Paris by revealing secret talks to buy U.S. or British nuclear-powered submarines, a major shift for a country with little domestic nuclear capability.

The decision drew fury from French President Emmanuel Macron, who publicly accused Mr. Morrison of lying and recalled his Ambassador from Australia in protest.

Relations were on ice until this May when Australia elected centre-left leader Mr. Albanese.

"We are re-establishing a better relationship between Australia and France," Mr. Albanese said, after speaking to Mr. Macron about the settlement.

"I'm looking forward to taking up President Macron's invitation to me to visit Paris at the earliest opportunity."

Speaking on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, Mr. Lecornu said France valued its "friendship" with Australia.

"Just because a government in the past did not keep its word, it does not mean we have to forget our strategic relationship," he said.

Venezuela, Iran enter into 20-year agreement

Both countries hit by U.S. sanctions; Maduro hails Tehran's supply of fuel tankers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and Iran's hard-line president signed a 20-year cooperation agreement on Saturday, a day after Mr. Maduro praised the Islamic Republic for sending badly needed fuel to his nation despite U.S. sanctions.

In an interview with President Maduro after his arrival in Tehran for a two-day visit, Iranian state media reported late on Friday that Mr. Maduro hailed Iran's move to send fuel tankers to his energy-hungry nation.

"Tehran's delivery of oil to Caracas was a great help to the Venezuelan people," he said.

Mr. Maduro's first visit to Iran comes amid tensions across the Middle East over the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. U.S. sanctions and rising global food prices are choking Iran's ailing economy, putting further pressure on its government and its people.

A high-ranking political and economic delegation from Venezuela – which like Iran is under heavy U.S. sanctions – is accompanying Mr. Maduro on his visit, following an invitation from hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi.

In a joint press conference on Saturday, Mr. Raisi and Mr. Maduro signed a 20-year agreement to expand ties in the oil and petrochemical industries, the military and the economy.

Iranian English-language *PressTV* quoted Mr. Maduro before the news conference as saying the two men would meet to discuss "the need to well inform the Iranian and Venezuelan nations about the war of sanctions and find ways to counter them with steadfastness."

'Common vision'

Mr. Maduro said Venezuela and Iran are united by "a common vision" on international issues and are both victims of coercive measures by the United States and its allies.

"Caracas and Tehran have shaped the strategy of (a) resistance economy and are working to expand it," he said.

Mr. Maduro is on a Eurasia tour after President Joe Biden decided not to invite him to the Summit of the Americas, which began on Thursday. His stops earlier this week included Algeria and Turkey.

Mr. Raisi praised Mr. Maduro as a leader "who has shown a policy of fighting against imperialism and has achieved a good position by overcoming sanctions and threats."

Mr. Maduro announced that a direct flight between Tehran and Caracas would begin next month.

Ukraine pleads for more weapons

Mariupol, earlier taken by Russian forces, now battling dysentery and cholera

REUTERS
KYIV

Ukraine pleaded to Western countries for faster deliveries of weapons as better-armed Russian forces pounded the east of the country, and for humanitarian support to combat growing outbreaks of deadly diseases.

In Severodonetsk, the small city that has become the focus of Russia's advance in eastern Ukraine and one of the bloodiest flashpoints in a war well into its fourth month, further heavy fighting was reported.

The war in the east, where Russia is focussing its attention, is now primarily an artillery battle in which Kyiv is severely outgunned, Ukrainian officials say. That means the tide of events could be turned only if Washington and others fulfil promises to send more and better weaponry, including rocket systems.

Collateral damage: A house on fire as a result of shelling in Lysychansk in Donbas, Ukraine, on Saturday. • AFP

"This is an artillery war now," Vadym Skibitsky, Ukraine's deputy head of military intelligence, told Britain's *Guardian* newspaper.

"Everything now depends on what (the West) gives us. Ukraine has one artillery piece to 10 to 15 Russian artillery pieces."

To the south, the mayor of Mariupol said sanitation systems were broken and corpses were rotting in the streets.

"There is an outbreak of dysentery and cholera," Vadym Boichenko told national television.

Meanwhile, the European Commission will provide a clear signal next week on Ukraine's EU candidate status bid, its chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday.

Making a surprise visit to Kyiv, Ms. von der Leyen said talks she held with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky "will enable us to finalise our assessment by the end of next week" – the first time the bloc has publicly given a timing.

'Explosive' COVID wave looms large over Beijing

Mass testing kicks off in Shanghai

REUTERS
SHANGHAI

China's capital Beijing is facing an "explosive" COVID-19 outbreak connected to a bar, a government spokesman warned on Saturday, as the commercial hub of Shanghai began mass testing to contain a jump in cases tied to a popular beauty salon.

The warning followed a renewed tightening of COVID curbs in Beijing since Thursday, with at least two districts closing certain entertainment venues after a flare-up in a busy neighbourhood known for its nightlife, shopping and streets of embassies.

While China's infection rate is low by global standards, President Xi Jinping has doubled down on a zero-COVID policy that authorities say is needed to protect the elderly and the medical system.

The latest cases in Beijing were linked to a drinking establishment known as Heaven Supermarket Bar. Infections have since surged, with Beijing saying on Saturday that all of the 61 new cases uncovered in the city on Friday had either visited the bar or had links to it.

Kim reaffirms weapons build-up in party meet

He sets forth further 'militant tasks'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un doubled down on his arms build-up in the face of what he described as an aggravating security environment while outside governments monitor signs of a possibly imminent North Korean nuclear test explosion.

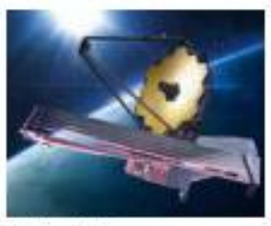
Mr. Kim's comments during a major three-day political conference that wrapped up on Friday didn't include any direct criticism of the United States or rival South Korea amid a prolonged deadlock in nuclear diplomacy.

Mr. Kim defended his accelerating weapons development as a rightful exercise of sovereign rights to self-defense and set forth further "militant tasks" to be pursued by his armed forces and military scientists, according to state-run *Korean Central News Agency*.

The plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee also reviewed key state affairs, including efforts to slow a COVID-19 outbreak the North first acknowledged last month.

SNAPSHOTS

Long necks
A newly described species of giraffoid that lived millions of years ago suggests how the giraffe might have got its long neck. *Discokeryx xiezhi* had a thick headpiece optimised for head-bashing fights. Its discovery adds weight to the theory that giraffes evolved longer necks for sexual competition.



Hit by debris
The James Webb Space Telescope has been hit by a micrometeoroid. NASA says the strike to one of the telescope's primary mirror segments will not affect its performance. The space telescope was engineered to withstand micrometeoroid impacts, although the micrometeoriod strike was larger than scientists had modelled.

Ethical dilemma
An app that turns research ethics into a thought-provoking game aims to get scientists talking about issues they might previously have had to grapple with alone. The Dilemma Game presents a thorny scenario and asks players to choose from four solutions during the game, with new questions added each month.

Tonga eruption
Researchers are starting to piece together why the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption in the South Pacific on January 15 was so explosive. Evidence gathered by two groups suggests that when the Tongan volcano's centre collapsed, it spewed an enormous amount of magma that reacted violently with water.

Is monkeypox a sexually transmitted infection?

A study found monkeypox virus in the seminal fluid of four men who had sex with men

R. PRASAD

As of June 8, 1,177 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed, with Europe being the worst affected with 704 cases, as per the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Monkeypox cases have been detected in 18 countries in Europe, mainly in the U.K., Spain and Portugal. The U.S. has confirmed 45 cases of monkeypox virus cases as of June 9.

Most of the cases reported so far have been in men who have sex with men and bisexual men. However, the risk of monkeypox virus is not restricted to men who have sex with men. "People who closely interact with someone who is infectious, including health workers, household members and sexual partners are at greater risk for infection, the World Health Organization (WHO) says. "You can catch monkeypox if you have close physical contact with someone who is showing symptoms. This includes touching and being face-to-face. Monkeypox can spread through close skin-to-skin contact during sex, including kissing, touching, oral and penetrative sex with someone who has symptoms."

The WHO also stresses that it is currently not clear if monkeypox virus can spread through semen or vaginal fluids. "But direct skin-to-skin contact with lesions during sexual activities can spread the virus. Monkeypox rashes are sometimes found on genitals and in the mouth, which is likely to contribute to transmission during sexual contact. Mouth-to-skin contact could cause transmission where skin or mouth lesions are present," WHO adds.

The virus can also spread through large respiratory droplets and contact with bedding, towels, etc. that a person with monkeypox infection has used.

Virus in semen

But a study published on June 2 in *Eurosurveillance* found the virus in the seminal fluid of four men who tested positive for monkeypox virus. The researchers have ruled out the possibility of sample contamination. Based on the findings, they say, "Although these findings cannot be considered definitive evidence of infectivity, they demonstrate viral shedding whose efficiency in terms of transmission cannot be ruled out."

They say that further studies are needed to "assess presence, persistence and contagiousness of the virus in different body fluids". But the researchers also mention that all four men had sex with many men and the lesions were initially seen mostly in the anal and genital areas. "These suggest that close contact during sexual intercourse was important for virus transmission," they note.

"Direct [skin-to-skin] contact is the primary route of monkeypox virus transmission," says Dr. Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology at CMC Vellore. The presence of the virus in the seminal fluid in all four men cannot be considered as proof of sexual transmission unless proven that virus transmission could not have happened any other way, Dr. Kang adds.

In the case of HIV, besides sexual route of virus transmission, the virus can be transmitted from the mother to the child (vertical transmission) during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding and also through injection drug use. Yet, HIV is called a sexually transmitted disease.

"HIV spread is predominantly sexual/parenteral, while monkeypox is mainly direct contact," Dr. Kang says.

Though most of the cases have been reported in men who have sex with men and presenting with lesions mostly seen in the anal and genital areas as well as the mouth, monkeypox is not considered to be sexually transmitted. Instead, intimate, skin-to-skin contact is considered key to transmission. Even if other studies find infectious monkeypox viruses in the seminal fluid, it is unlikely that monkeypox would be called as a sexually transmitted infection.

Sexually transmitted?

Virologist Boghuma Kabisen Titanji from Emory University thinks otherwise. In a tweet thread on June 3, Dr. Titanji says, "So far the data on the 800 plus cases of monkeypox happening in non-endemic countries point at sexual contact (intimacy through sex) playing an important role in transmission. Whether this is happening through semen, vaginal secretions or skin-to-skin contact is semantics."

She also adds that definition of sexually transmitted infections is not clear and it is important to clarify this while trying to contain a large outbreak. She cites scabies, herpes, syphilis, pubic lice "crabs", which are STIs that are transmitted through close contact.

"Anybody can get scabies but scabies can be sexually transmitted by close contact during sex. So can monkeypox. Calling an infection as sexually transmitted doesn't mean that is the sole mode of spread," Dr. Boghuma Titanji tells *The Hindu* in a message.

"The reason why it is important to use the correct terminology and highlight the mode of spread which may be important is that it allows for targeted interventions to stop an outbreak," she says. "A lot of the cases in the present monkeypox outbreak have clustered in sexual networks. Therefore, it is important to highlight this in communication while providing caveats that this is not the sole mechanism of spread."

The CDC Atlanta, in its new guidelines issued on June 8, has specifically addressed the point that Dr. Titanji has raised. The new guidance categorically states the risks of virus spread in certain high-risk situations.

"Enclosed spaces, such as back rooms, saunas, or sex clubs, where there is minimal or no clothing and where intimate sexual contact occurs, have a higher likelihood of spreading monkeypox," the guidance notes. "A rave, party, or club where there is minimal clothing and where there is direct, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, has some risk."

Question of stigma

On whether calling monkeypox as a sexually transmitted infection will lead to more stigma and discrimination, Dr. Titanji told *The Hindu*, "I am worried about stigma too and that is the challenge in public health messaging. [But] shrouding this in taboo will breed stigma, and stigma is bad for controlling outbreaks."

She adds, "Calling any disease that spreads through sexual contact an STI is not intended to stigmatise. It is intended to identify and address risk factors and offer interventions to help folks manage their risk."

She elaborated this in a tweet, "Calling an infection an STI is not intended to be stigmatising. It allows for people to understand how they could be exposed and potentially infected, it also helps with tracing partners, notifying them so they are aware of their exposures to seek treatment."

Can the virus found in semen contribute to sexual transmission?

With sudden focus on monkeypox virus, researchers find virus in seminal fluid

1. Anybody who has close physical contact with someone who is infectious runs the risk of getting infected
2. Direct skin-to-skin contact with lesions during sexual activities can spread the virus
3. Lesions were initially seen mostly in the anal and genital areas in the four men in whom the virus was found in the seminal fluid
4. The lesions suggest that close contact during sexual intercourse was important for virus transmission
5. The presence of the virus in the seminal fluid in all four men cannot be considered as proof of sexual transmission unless proven that virus transmission could not have happened any other way
6. But scabies, herpes, syphilis, and pubic lice "crabs" are examples of infections that are STIs which are transmitted through close contact
7. Calling an infection as sexually transmitted doesn't mean that is the sole mode of spread
8. Calling any disease that spreads through sexual contact as sexually transmitted is not to stigmatise but help identify and address risk factors

Reliable: The researchers have ruled out the possibility of sample contamination

A network of spiking neurons demonstrated

IIT Bombay team has designed the first spiking neuro-synaptic core on 45 nanometre silicon-on-insulator technology

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Using the phenomenon of quantum tunnelling, IIT Bombay researchers have demonstrated, for the first time, a spiking neuron network that is highly compact and shows potential for brain-scale implementation. The research, published in the journal *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems*, demonstrates the use of a 36-member network of spiking neurons in a speech recognition module.

Energy efficient mode

The inter-disciplinary work, led by Maryam Shojaei Baghini, who brought in expertise in circuit design, and Professor Udayan Ganguly who provided the technology and algorithm knowhow, from the Electrical Engineering department of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, showed that their concept of a neuron could be realised and that it works in an energy efficient mode with low power requirement, suitable for emulating the brain.

"This specific work started in 2020, though the relevant knowledge has built over many years and by many people in the team... Our goal was to show a neuron in a network doing something useful. So, we took a prototypical spoken word recognition problem, that is, mimicking the auditory cortex," says Mr. Ganguly.

In second generation, artificial neural networks, neurons represent their state in eight-bit precision. This does not mimic biological systems.

Instead in a spiking neural network, the next step, the neuron's output state is "spike" (equivalent to a "one") or "no spike" (equivalent to a "zero"). This has a binary representation and is closer to the natural workings of neurons in the brain. If such a neural network should also occupy less space and consume little power, it could meet the decadal challenge of brain scale computing.

"We have conceptualised and experimentally demonstrated a very compact and highly energy efficient neuron – a key building block of a neural network," says Mr. Ganguly.

Demonstrated: IIT Bombay team showed that the concept of a neuron could be realised. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Making hardware circuit

First, the algorithm of (audio) processing had to be developed. While mathematically the algorithm may be framed in an ideal situation, in actuality, the developer faces non-linearities and other variables. This part of the development was handled by Vivek Saraswat, a graduate student in the department.

In the next step which involved developing the hardware circuit, researchers used the standard technology with a different applied voltage pattern to operate the technology in the quantum-tunnelling-dominant regime.

"This regime is typically avoided in conventional applications and models may not be very accurate. Hence, we partly developed the circuit in the blind," says Ajay Singh, a graduate student at the department.

While the group was hoping at least one neuron would work well, the whole network sprang to life. "It was a wonderful surprise. Especially as all this was done during the early COVID-19 days remotely, a very 'unfamiliar' mode of working, which has since then become the norm," says Mr. Ganguly.

Comparing this spiking neural network with existing state-of-the-art technology is encouraging. In a publication that came out in May this year, in *IEEE Transaction of Circuits & Systems*, the researchers show that they have achieved 5,000 times lower energy-per-spike at a similar area, 50 times less area at a similar energy-per-spike, and ten times lower standby power at a similar area and energy-per-spike compared to the state-of-the-art benchmarks.

"Such overall performance improvement makes our neuron a promising candidate to enable brain-scale computing," adds Mr. Ganguly.

Microplastics found in Antarctica

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Scientists have found microplastics – plastic pieces smaller than a grain of rice –in freshly fallen Antarctic snow for the first time, which they said has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating melting of ice.

The findings, published recently in *The Cryosphere* journal, brought to light a serious threat to the Antarctic region.

In late 2019, Alex Aves, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand collected snow samples from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

The researchers then found that there were plastic particles in every sample from the Ross Ice Shelf, and that the findings would be of global significance.

Sushruta's description of reconstructing a nose

His writings are regarded as the earliest true medical textbook

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Surgery performed on the nose is called rhinoplasty. In the modern era, it is popularly called a 'nose job' and is often associated with vanity – the cosmetic improvement of "facial symmetry". Functional improvements to the airways is also a good reason for surgery, or less frequent causes such as birth defects (cleft palate) falls, cancers, etc.

India ranks fourth in the world in rhinoplasties performed annually. (A note of caution – availability of the procedure does not translate to widespread availability of expertise, and the outcome of nose jobs can be hit-or-miss. Prominent surgeons say that a significant number of their new patients are only seeking a 'redo').

The nose is a defining feature of our appearance and identity. This may explain why phrases such as the Hindi phrase, *naak kat gaya* (my nose was cut) refer to a not so literal loss of face. In many societies, the cutting of the nose was a severe form of punishment. This may also explain why the reconstruction of noses is a very old surgical procedure.

Ancient method

The first careful description of nasal reconstruction is found in the *Sushruta Samahita*. Modern scholars have dated this text to the 7th or 6th century B.C., its esteemed author having practiced this art on the banks of the Ganges. The collection of Sushruta's writings is regarded as the earliest true medical textbook.

Two sites were described for gathering the skin that would be reshaped into a new nose – the cheek or the forehead. A leaf was chosen that provided an approximate measure of the missing nose. A segment of skin was then incised from the cheek, but not fully detached – a short stalk or pedicle remained attached to the face for unhindered blood circulation.

Novel approach: The surgical procedure was unfamiliar to the British. •GETTY IMAGES

The scalpel was then deployed to make small raw wounds around the remaining nose stump.

The incised cheek flap was stretched over, positioned and stitched to the face at these raw spots. The nose was shaped by positioning stalks from the castor oil plant (Hindi - *arandi*; Tamil - *amanakku*) where nostrils should have been. A powdered mix of barberry, licorice and red sandalwood (Hindi - *daruhaldi, mithi lakdi, rakta chandan*; Tamil - *adimaduram, chandanam*) was then sprinkled over the area, as an analgesic and antiseptic. The wounds were covered with cotton, and sesame oil was constantly applied until the skins had fused – at which point the connection to the cheek was cut off.

Sushruta did not claim credit for inventing this technique. He described it as an 'ancient method'. The *Sushruta Samahita* was translated into the Arabic in the 8th century.

A notable English translation by Kunja Lal Bhishagratna appeared in 1907. Curiously, there were no descriptions of rhinoplasty from Europe until the 13th century, when accounts of the "Indian cheek flap" method began to appear.

Not familiar

The fact that this surgical procedure was unfamiliar to the British is evident from a book, *An account of two successful operations for restoring a lost nose*, published in 1816 by Joseph Carpue of York, a pioneer of rhinoplasty in his country.

In the book, he recounts the observations of two "medical gentlemen" of the East India Company who had watched a surgery performed by one Mr. Kumar in Poona in 1792.

Nose surgery using wax

The unfortunate victim, Cowasjee, was a bullock-cart driver transporting goods for soldiers of the East India Company. His nose had been mutilated by men of Tipu Sultan's army.

In Mr. Kumar's hands, a thin slab of wax that had been expertly shaped and trimmed to resemble the lost nose, was carefully flattened and placed on the forehead of the victim. The outline of this wax served as the boundary for the dissection of the skin, with the central part between the eyebrows, remaining connected to the face. The incised skin was then stretched downward to the region of the nose and stitched into place.

For antimicrobial action, catechu (Hindi - *kathha*; Tamil - *karungali*) was coated on the sites and a cloth soaked in *ghee* used as cover for a few days. Over time, no scars were visible, and the recipient could even sneeze and blow his nose without discomfort.

Performed nearly 2500 years after Sushruta wrote his text, the method was essentially unchanged.

More studies needed

It should be noted that this nasal reconstruction method was not a true graft. Skin grafting, the transplanting of an expanse of skin from another part of the body (or from another person or animal) would require advances in our understanding of the biology of tissue rejection and compatibility.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani who works in molecular modelling. sushilchandani@gmail.com)

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Question Corner

Burning pain

How does the brain process heat as pain?

Researchers at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine think they've found that a neural circuit involving spinal neurons and a signalling pathway are responsible for how burning pain is sensed.

They believe their discovery (*Neuron*), could lead to more effective treatment for chronic, pathological pain – such as shooting, stabbing and burning pain – because it may involve the same signalling pathway. The neurons encoding the heat signals in the spinal cord were unclear. The study identified a group of interneurons in the spinal cord required for heat sensation.

The research team looked at neurons in the spinal cord and their role in thermal pain by analysing mouse models and their response to heated plates. During this process, the team identified the activation of a "novel," class of spinal cord neurons (called ErbB4+) that process heat signals to the spinal cord, says a release.

The researchers expressed a toxin specifically targeting the ErbB4+ neurons. Once the neurons were destroyed, the response to heat pain was impaired. This demonstrated that ErbB4+ neurons are specifically tied to how thermal pain is sensed and, when destroyed, pain is not felt less.

The team also examined the role of neuregulin 1 (NRG1), a protein involved in many cellular functions.

The study showed that pathological pain can be reduced by injecting an ErbB4+ inhibitor or an NRG1 neutralising peptide. The application of these discoveries may go beyond the therapeutic treatment of pathological pain.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Mix and match dose

With COVID cases rising again, does a heterologous booster vaccine give the best shot at immunity?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: With the number of COVID-19 cases creeping up the curve since May 24, a certain sense of guarded concern has naturally crept into pandemic control activities. With the number of cases, rising by the thousands on a daily basis, (on June 11, in a span of 24 hours, over 8,000 fresh cases were reported), repeat infections, breakthrough infections for those who have had the double dose of vaccine, the debate about getting a booster or precaution dose has gotten shriller.

What is the vaccine strategy?

■ Currently, the government supports vaccination through its healthcare network only for senior citizens, with or without co-morbidities, and certain categories including frontline workers and healthcare workers. It has given the private sector the go-ahead to vaccinate eligible groups with the precaution dose for a price. The debate has also increasingly called to question the appropriate vaccine to use in the precautionary dosage, whether it should be homologous, the same vaccine that was administered as primary dose, or if it should be heterologous – any vaccine other than the primary dose, for a better immune response.

Are heterologous booster shots better?

■ There is a growing body of scientific evidence to prove that when heterologous doses are used as booster shots, the immune response is more efficient.

In a May 23 article, in *eBioMedicine*, part of Lancet Discovery Science, Zoltán Bánki et al, basing their conclusions on a single-blinded, three-arm, partially randomised clinical trial, said: "This study clearly shows the immunogenicity and safety of heterologous AZ/BNT vaccination and encourages further studies on heterologous vaccination schedules."

In the March 17 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* , Robert L. Atmar et al discuss this point: "Heterologous prime-boost strategies may offer immunologic advantages to extend the breadth and longevity of protection provided by the currently available vaccines." Demonstrating with the AstraZeneca base vaccine supplemented by an mRNA vaccine booster, the authors concluded that "the heterologous boost immunisation strategy provides an immune response that may prove to be beneficial for durable prevention and control of COVID-19."

The arguments of an April 23 study conducted in Chile and published in *Lancet Global Health* by Alejandro Jara et al re-emphasised the pressing need to come to a conclusion about the most effective booster to be used: "Policy makers urgently need evidence of the effectiveness of additional vaccine doses and its clinical spectrum for individuals with complete primary immunisation schedules, particularly in countries where the primary schedule used inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccines."

Many countries have restricted vaccine boosters to people at high risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection or related complications, including older adults, healthcare workers, and individuals with underlying health conditions, making it all the more important to prioritise the use of appropriate vaccines that would also enable a fair and equitable distribution of the doses.

The authors reported: "Our results suggest that a homologous or heterologous booster dose for individuals with a complete primary vaccination schedule with CoronaVac provides a high level of protection against COVID-19, including severe disease and death." Without a doubt, in this study, heterologous boosters showed higher vaccine effectiveness than a homologous booster for all outcomes, providing additional support for a mix and match approach.

What are the other advantages?

■ In the NEJM paper, the authors pointed out that "an option to use heterologous booster vaccines could simplify the logistics of administering such vaccines, since the booster formulation could be administered regardless of the primary series."

Since the first introduction of a vaccine for COVID-19 several more vaccines have entered the market. More options are now available across the spectrum, made from various vaccine candidates. While their availability in numbers might be low, the fact that there are more vaccines available in the market is likely to level the playing field.

What is the way ahead?

■ A comment on the Jara Lancet paper by Mine Durusu Tanriover and Murat Akova highlights how the results of the study provide insights to policy makers on how to manage the booster dose strategy after two doses of CoronaVac vaccination.

"It is now clear that, in a world where vaccine equity is a utopia, scientists can only strive for how to best use the available vaccines to reach for a maximum attainable benefit. A mix and match vaccination strategy, including inactivated vaccines for priming and heterologous boosters thereafter, seems to be a realistic policy."

It would be prudent for governments, including in India, to switch to a heterologous booster regimen to allow more persons eligible for the vaccine and able to pay for it, access it in the market. As a community health move, it will also be easy for health administrators to deploy newer vaccines in the market as part of the public vaccination programme. Shortages of vaccines will not be an issue when the reliance on just a few vaccines disappears, public health experts said.

Why are economic stakes high in West Asia?

What are the key items of trade for import and export? How many Indians work in the region?

SURESH SESHADRI

The story so far: The diplomatic fallout from the provocative and communally charged comments made by two erstwhile spokespersons of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), forced the government into firefighting mode earlier this month after several West Asian nations including Qatar, Kuwait, Iran, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as the 57-nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) took strong exception to the remarks denigrating Islam and the Prophet Muhammed. In response, Indian officials strenuously asserted that the government stood by the country's traditional values and respected all religions. It also tasked its diplomats to reach out to individual OIC member states and reassure them on India's position of an 'inclusive' approach to all communities.

Key ties: Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu with the speaker of Qatar Shura Council Hassan bin Abdulla Al Ghanim during a meeting in Doha, Qatar on June 6. • PTI

What prompted the government response?

■ India's cultural, economic and trade ties with the countries of the West Asian region are deep and abiding. Starting with maritime trade, the exchange of goods, services and cultures between the people of the Gulf region including those on the western shores of the Arabian Sea and the people of India's southern and western States reaches back several millennia and significantly predates even the foundation of the Islamic faith.

The West Asian region also served as a land trade bridge to Greece, Rome and other early European empires and a flourishing trade in spices, cloth, silk and indigo in exchange for gold and silver is well recorded.

In a more contemporary historical context, the British colonial era saw the advent of even a loose common monetary system with the rupee serving as legal tender in several Gulf states till the middle of the 20th century. It was also the discovery and subsequent commercial exploitation of oil in the Gulf region during the colonial era that started to alter the balance of trade flows between India and the countries in the region.

Today, the countries of the West Asian region collectively account for well over a sixth of India's total bilateral merchandise trade and contribute about three fifths of India's crude oil supplies. The region is also a major provider of jobs and economic opportunities to Indian workers, professionals and entrepreneurs and houses about 89 lakh Indians. These non-resident Indians (NRIs) annually send home about $40 billion, and account for more than 55% of the country's total remittance inflows. Investments from sovereign wealth funds and other large investors from the GCC have also climbed steadily in recent years and India, which earlier this year signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the UAE, is looking to significantly boost trade ties with the region by negotiating more such trade and investment pacts.

It is the sizeable and rapidly growing economic interconnectedness that the government is keen to insulate from any fallout over this sensitive and potentially disruptive issue.

Why is India so dependent on West Asian countries for its energy needs?

■ Domestic crude production, which has been declining over the years, meets less than a fifth of the country's oil requirement, forcing India to take recourse to imports to fill the gap of more than 80%. An Observer Research Foundation (ORF) April 2022 paper analysing 'India's oil imports: Trends in diversification' notes that out of India's total imports of crude oil, the share of the Gulf countries has remained fairly steady at about 60% over the last 15 years. The ORF study observes that in 2020-21, the top oil exporter to India was Iraq, with a share of more than 22%, followed by Saudi Arabia – about 18%. The UAE, Kuwait and Oman were other Gulf countries among the top-10 suppliers of crude oil to India in the fiscal year ended March 2021.

> West Asia collectively accounts for well over a sixth of India's total bilateral merchandise trade and contributes about three fifths of India's crude oil supplies. The region is also a major provider of jobs to Indians

A large proportion of India's refineries have also historically been predominantly configured to process the sulphur-heavy sour grades of crude that are produced in the Gulf region and with the sweeter (low sulphur) grades of oil such as Brent proving comparatively costlier, India's crude purchases have over the last two decades gradually shifted to being more weighted towards the Oman and Dubai sour grades, according to data on the composition of the Indian basket of crude compiled by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). While the ratio of sour grades to sweet grades was 57:43 in the fiscal year ended March 2001, the proportion of sour crude to Brent had increased to 75.62:24.38 in the 12 months ended March 2022.

How reliant is India on the region for non-oil trade?

■ Over the five years from 2017 through 2021, Iran and the GCC member states comprising the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar accounted for a 15.3% share of India's cumulative two-way merchandise trade of $3.98 trillion in that period, according to statistics available on the UN Comtrade database. Of the $609 billion of exports and imports that the seven countries accounted for in this period, the UAE contributed the lion's share of $277.4 billion, or almost 7%, making it one of India's largest trading partners. Saudi Arabia was next with $153 billion. The region is today a key market for several Indian commodities ranging from tea and basmati rice to electrical equipment, apparel, and machinery. Reflecting this importance, India and the UAE signed the CEPA in February with the aim of increasing the total value of bilateral trade in goods to more than $100 billion in five years and getting services trade to exceed $15 billion over the same period. The trade pact will provide Indian exporters preferential market access on '99% of the country's exports to the UAE in value terms, particularly from labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and automobiles', according to a Ministry of Commerce and Industry release. With the CEPA now serving as a framework, the government is actively pursuing a broader FTA (Free Trade Agreement) with the GCC as a whole. With the region serving as a key hub to markets in Africa, India is keen to gain tariff-free access for its exports not just to the Gulf region but also to countries across Africa.

What else is at stake?

■ The West Asian region provides among the largest number of overseas jobs for Indians, with nearly 89 lakh Indians living and working in the Gulf economies. The UAE, which comprises the seven emirates of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Ajman, Umm Al-Quwain, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah, accounts for the largest share of NRIs in the region and is home to more than 34 lakh Indians. Saudi Arabia with close to 26 lakh and Kuwait with over 10 lakh are the other large providers of jobs and economic opportunities for Indians. Indians are today ubiquitous by their presence across a vast range of job categories in the region spanning construction labour to oil industry workers, nurses and doctors in the medical sector to the hospitality industry and finance professionals.

The remittances that they sent back home in 2017, according to Pew Research data, accounted for about 55% of the total $68.97 billion in inward remittances received in India from across the world that year.

What are SEBI's concerns around crypto assets?

Why has the market watchdog said it is difficult to regulate such currencies? What is the status of the bill?

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

The story so far: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the watchdog which regulates the securities and commodities market, has reportedly told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance led by Jayant Sinha that regulation of crypto assets would be difficult given the nature of technology that sustains them. It was reported last month that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had also shared its worries about cryptocurrencies with the committee.

What exactly did the SEBI tell the committee?

■ SEBI has essentially flagged the problems with regulating crypto assets because they "are maintained in decentralised distributed ledgers, which are nested in computer nodes spread all across the globe." Crypto assets is usually used as an umbrella term to encompass cryptocurrencies (e.g., Bitcoin, Ether) as also non-currency tokens such as utility tokens (which provide a certain utility within an ecosystem) and non-fungible tokens (which help establish ownership of unique items), among others. The underlying technology for crypto assets is the same – distributed ledgers that aren't controlled by any one entity.

What else did SEBI say?

■ As per media reports, SEBI has elaborated upon the possible need for different regulators to deal with different aspects of a crypto asset market. Crypto exchanges, for instance, represent one such aspect. These exchanges, in case of a cross-border transaction, in effect enable the use of a cryptocurrency as a bridge to convert one nation's official currency to another. These exchanges, SEBI has suggested, could be brought under the regulatory purview of the RBI. The idea is to implement what are called KYC/AML/CFT (Know Your Customer/Anti-Money Laundering/Combating of Financing of Terrorism) norms. For some years now, the RBI has implemented a set of these guidelines in regulating banks so as to prevent them from being used by criminal elements.

The subscribers or customers of crypto assets form another important part of the market. SEBI has suggested that the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 be invoked to make sure their interests are safeguarded. It has also sought clarity on whether cryptocurrencies can be legally classified as securities. Right now, they aren't. According to media reports, SEBI has said that crypto assets are not part of the definition of what constitutes as securities under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act of 1956, also known as SCRA. It is to be noted that what constitutes as securities under the SCRA is what is used under the SEBI Act.

• REUTERS

Why is this important?

■ In December 2021, it was widely reported that the government was looking to get SEBI to regulate crypto assets by bringing in legislation around that time. Though such a legislation – the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 – did not materialise at that time, the talk that the government wants to treat cryptocurrencies as digital assets, rather than as currencies, has not ebbed. Ajay Tyagi, former chairman of SEBI, had in March said that the regulator has made several representations to the government regarding cryptocurrency regulation since November last year.

Has SEBI also flagged issues about celebrity endorsements?

■ Yes. It has proposed to the committee that celebrities should not be allowed to endorse cryptocurrencies. A *Hindu BusinessLine* report quoted a source who spelt out SEBI's stance thus: "Given that crypto products are unregulated, prominent public figures including celebrities, sportsment, etc, or their voice shall not be used for endorsement/advertisement of crypto products." It was also mentioned that they must be held responsible for making any endorsement of crypto products.

What did the RBI tell the committee?

■ According to a report by *PTI*, top RBI officials told the committee that cryptocurrencies can lead to "dollarisation" of a part of the economy. This, they said, was against India's sovereign interest. "Almost all cryptocurrencies are dollar-denominated and issued by foreign private entities, it may eventually lead to dollarisation of a part of our economy which will be against the country's sovereign interest," the officials were reported as saying. They linked this to a possible undermining of RBI's ability to regulate money supply in the economy.

What has been the stance of the government?

■ Over the last few years, the government's stance has definitely changed. But there is still ambiguity around what it really wants to do. A Bill that was sought to be introduced last year signalled its intention to ban cryptocurrencies outright. It, however, didn't see the light of day.

The idea that the administration doesn't consider cryptocurrencies desirable has been made clear from time to time for some years now. It started as statements in the Budget but then an inter-ministerial report recommended an outright ban. Such currencies were and are considered problematic as they can easily evade official scrutiny, bypass and weaken the monetary system, and fuel illegal trade. Around this time, an RBI circular sought to bar banks from dealing in such currencies, only for the Supreme Court to strike it down.

> The Securities and Exchange Board of India has essentially flagged the problems with regulating crypto assets because they 'are maintained in decentralised distributed ledgers, which are nested in computer nodes spread all across the globe'

The cryptocurrency industry saw a window of hope earlier this year when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman imposed a tax for the first time on crypto assets. The tax, at 30%, was seen at first to settle the question of legality of such currencies. But, Ms. Sitharaman, in a TV interview indicated that taxability was an issue that is not to be linked to legitimacy.

Legislative clarity is still awaited. Meanwhile, the Sinha-led committee has in recent months been holding extensive conversations with the financial regulators, who being statutory bodies, report to Parliament. The committee last November also met with representatives of the crypto industry. The Bill aims to set up a facilitative framework for creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the RBI.

BORIS JOHNSON

Winning trust, losing support

The scandal-prone Prime Minister has had nine lives in the past, but the latest turmoil has presented him a much stronger challenge

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

In his first major test following his party's thumping victory in the 2019 general elections, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, last week, won a no-confidence vote within the Conservative Party by receiving 211 of the 359 MP votes. By doing so, he secured the comfort of not having to face another such trust vote for at least one more year. But a look at past such votes among the Tories and how the leadership fared following such relatively close votes shows that Mr. Johnson is headed towards a period of more turmoil for his leadership.

Mr. Johnson's latest troubles were on account of his brazen conduct during the COVID-19 pandemic when he and other Conservative party colleagues organised and participated in parties and gatherings even as public health restrictions were imposed in the country in late 2021 and early 2022.

An internal investigation led by civil servant Sue Gray released a report that squarely blamed the Tory government leadership for the parties held during the lockdown, including those that had "excessive alcohol consumption". Ironically, after a series of policy gaffes during the first COVID-19 outbreak in Britain, a chastened Mr. Johnson had sought to correct his government's record on public health after himself being infected with the novel coronavirus and having been admitted to intensive health care for cure. In the subsequent COVID-19 waves, though, the "partygate" scandal erupted again to discredit his government's efforts.

Bogged down by this scandal and economic woes that have afflicted Britain following Brexit and later the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Tories suffered a massive defeat in local body elections held in May 2022. All these issues emboldened rebels within the Tories to call a trust vote against Mr. Johnson and for now, he has survived it.

Mr. Johnson's performance in the trust vote was worse than that of predecessor Theresa May. Ms. May won the backing of 63% of her party's MPs in 2019, but had to resign six months after the vote with the leadership passing on to Mr. Johnson. His strong backing of Brexit allowed him to not just take the helm of the Tories but also deliver a telling victory in the 2019 elections. The December 2019 win, however, seems to be Mr. Johnson's apogee moment as his government's performance especially, during the pandemic since then, has only led to a gradual slide in the Tories' popularity.

As things stand, pollster Yougov showed that 69% of adults polled in the first week of June said the Tory government was performing "badly" as opposed to only 24% who said it was doing "well", a reversal of positions in December 2019 when the corresponding numbers were 26% and 66%, respectively.

Mr. Johnson's reversal of fortunes will not come as a surprise to those who have followed the career of a politician who was described in an article in *The Hindu* by British writer Richard Seymour as a "gaffeur, entertainer [and] Brexiteer". Formerly, the Prime Minister served two terms as London's Mayor and during both tenures, went through a series of scandals, reminiscent of what he is going through during his premiership. As a columnist in the British press, Mr. Johnson was well-known for provocative remarks about black people, gay men, and British colonialism. In his earlier tenure as the Foreign Secretary, he was equally prone to embarrassing gaffes and old conservative chauvinism that celebrated British colonialism.

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

According to a recent poll, 69% of adults are of the view that the Tory government was performing "badly", a huge fall from December 2019 when 66% said the govt. was doing well

Public persona

But a carefully cultivated public persona of being an entertaining, gaffe-prone politician and a public celebrity who was the cynosure of Britain's vast right wing press helped him stave off any serious scrutiny of his otherwise weak public record even as new political currents in Britain such as the Brexit issue helped him climb the ladder to the top. Mr. Seymour calls Mr. Johnson the embodiment of "not just the 'celebrification' of politics, but also its relentless and poisonous triviality" – an outcome of the British right wing's deliberate cultivation of the "cultures of flippancy, contrarianism and online irony".

Mr. Johnson's championing of Brexit began as prominent support of the "Vote Leave" campaign in the 2016 EU membership referendum. Using rabble rousing rhetoric such as voting leave would mean that the referendum day could be "Britain's independence day", Mr. Johnson came across as a prominent voice for Britain's exit from the EU. Later, as PM, after complications over Brexit that was being negotiated with the EU, Mr. Johnson declared that he had asked the Queen to prorogue Parliament from September 2019.

This was a tactic to narrow the window for Parliament from blocking a "no-deal Brexit". This move was stymied by the Supreme Court, which ruled that Mr. Johnson's advice to prorogue Parliament was unlawful.

Yet, after much confusion on the Brexit matter with the Tories unable to reach a consensus in the House of Commons for a withdrawal agreement of their liking, his strident support for the Leave position, exemplified in the Tories' 'Get Brexit Done' slogan helped him and the party win a landslide parliamentary majority in the 2019 elections. The victory allowed Brexit to finally happen on January 31, 2020 with the U.K. becoming the only sovereign country to have left the EU. The exit was not without consequences for the British economy, which has endured a series of setbacks in recent years.

The Brexit agreement also included the thorny Northern Ireland protocol that tackled the question of Northern Ireland being part of the EU's single market (and therefore to follow the EU's product standards) by allowing for inspections and checks for products from the rest of the U.K. to be done at Northern Ireland ports instead of the border between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

After the withdrawal of support for the Tory-led government by the loyalist Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland and following its historic defeat and the rise of the republican Sinn Fein there, Mr. Johnson now proposes to override the protocol, which he himself negotiated with the EU, in new legislation that is reported to be due for publication next week, according to *The Guardian*. Clearly, Mr. Johnson is seeking to revive his sagging fortunes following much disenchantment – both within the Tories and among the general electorate – with his governance record and trying to use the "Brexit" trump card yet again.

His ploy to play up support for Euro-scepticism is also ironically coming at a time when Britain has taken a strident position on the Russian invasion of Ukraine seeking to rally other countries in Europe to isolate Russia. Such contrary positions are not new to Mr. Johnson and his brand of politics. His attempt to "reset" his leadership following the trust vote victory seems yet another desperate ploy to recast his flagging image but it remains to be seen whether he can buck the trend of previous Tory PMs who faded into oblivion after such narrow victories in their own party's trust votes.

In Focus

- A former journalist and a two-time Mayor of London, Boris Johnson's political rise coincided with the growing support for Brexit among the British electorate
- A staunch supporter of Brexit, Johnson led the Conservative Party to a sweeping victory in the 2019 elections by promising that he would 'get Brexit done'
- But scandals and an economic slump hit his government, dealing a blow to the Tories in the local elections and triggering a rebellion within the party against his leadership

NUPUR SHARMA

In the eye of the storm

Action taken against the ex-spokesperson has created a churn within the BJP

NISTULA HEBBAR

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Within a day of the diplomatic storm that broke out over remarks made by suspended BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Muhammed, during a TV show aired on May 26, another video clip of her went viral. This one was from 2008, when she was the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) president from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS. It was about a reported incident of a protester "spitting" at a former Delhi University Professor S.A.R. Geelani. Mr. Geelani had been given the death sentence by a trial court and later acquitted by the Supreme Court in the 2001 Parliament attack case. Ms. Sharma's moment on television came when she, along with other students, stormed into a faculty seminar on the topic "Communalism, fascism and democracy: rhetoric and reality", to protest against Mr. Geelani's participation.

She was called on Times Now (the same channel that broadcast her remarks on May 26th appearance) where she defiantly stated to a younger Arnab Goswami who had called her out on it, "I am not going to apologise... I will take a stand. The whole country should spit on him. Who invited him to the university to speak on terrorism?"

For Ms. Sharma and many in her cohort that had joined the BJP in various capacities, this aggressive questioning of what the BJP termed "appeasement politics" in words and in actions was par for the course in a party that prized a muscular assertion of Hindutva, particularly since it politically backed the Ramjanmabhoomi movement at its Palampur resolution in 1989.

Ms. Sharma's outspokenness and her law degrees – graduation from Delhi University and Master's from the London School of Economics (LSE) – put her on a good track for career advancement within the party, which was slowly coming out of the Vajpayee-Advani era. Under Narendra Modi, the party would end a three-decade-long coalition era and bring to life the idea of a unified Hindu vote.

In 2015, Ms. Sharma was asked by the party to fight the Assembly election against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. While no one expected her to win, the contest brought her to the national spotlight. Then, she first became the spokesperson for the Delhi BJP and later in 2020, the national spokesperson.

Aggressive style

Her aggressive style was appreciated by television channels, which stuck to organising gladiatorial debates on prime time between aggressive panellists of divergent views, where strong language was the order of the day.

The May 26 debate, entitled *The Gyanvapi Files*, came and went without attracting much attention. It was only after a clip of Ms. Sharma's comments on Prophet Muhammed went viral that things became dire. Violence broke out in Kanpur, and Muslim groups took out protests. When West Asian countries started reacting, the BJP decided to take action, with more than a gentle nudge from the government. Indian Ambassadors termed Ms. Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, another party leader, "fringe elements".

Her suspension, even as she received death threats from extremist groups, has created a churn among the social media warriors of the BJP. She was seen to be abandoned by a party that encouraged plain speaking. The BJP will have to work to convince them that the action taken was inevitable.

For the BJP and the Sangh Parivar, Ms. Sharma's career graph is a moment of reflection coming as it does following a significant speech by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat telling Hindu society to "not look for a *Shivling* under every mosque". BJP president J.P. Nadda said the resolution of the Gyanvapi Mosque issue was to be through courts and the Constitution. Much is being spoken of making the party's rank and file pivot from polarising rhetoric to selling the good works of the NDA government. This will, after eight years of pushing the political narrative in one direction, require much unlearning and a massive human resources exercise on rewards and punishment.

If it is indeed the case that the Sangh Parivar wants a calmer public discourse on Hindu and Muslim identity politics, then Ms. Sharma's case is more than just a random disciplinary action, but a singular act that may decide many things in the BJP in the time to come.

SEVERODONETSK

Battle for the Donbas

Fate of the battleground city will decide the future of Ukraine's industrial belt

STANLY JOHNY

Sources: Graphic News

It's the last major city in the eastern Luhansk Oblast where the Ukrainian forces still have some presence. The Russians have already taken over more than half of the city, including its residential areas, while fighting has been raging in its industrial western half for weeks. The Ukrainian leadership has said they are losing up to 200 soldiers every day. But despite the setbacks, the Ukrainians continue to defend Severodonetsk, the loss of which, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky, would determine the fate of Ukraine's east.

Severodonetsk, a city with a pre-war population of over 120,000, has been a focal point of the Russia-Ukraine conflict since 2014. After the pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine's east took up arms in 2014, Ukraine briefly lost control of the city. Violence broke out in the east after Ukraine's elected government collapsed in the wake of the West-backed Euromaidan protests. Russia quickly annexed Crimea through a referendum and threw its weight behind the separatists in Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts, which together make the majority-Russian speaking Donbas region,. After the initial setbacks, Ukrainian forces, aligned with self-styled far-right nationalists, regrouped and recaptured several cities, including Mariupol and Severodonetsk.

Ever since, Severodonetsk has remained the capital of the Ukraine-controlled parts of Luhansk Oblast, while Luhansk city, the most populous city in the province, has been with the separatists. Since the war began on February 24, Russian troops have been slowly but steadily pushing the frontlines in Luhansk and Donetsk. Last month, the Russians took full control of Mariupol, one of the biggest industrial cities in the Donbas that sits on the Sea of Azov coast and then started concentrating their firepower on Severodonetsk and its sister city Lysychansk, which are divided by the Donets river.

The modern city of Severodonetsk was founded in the 1930s after the Soviets built the Lysychansk Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant across the river. The industrial activity led to the rise of a new settlement on the both sides of the Donets valley. During the Second World War, like most other cities in Ukraine, the German Nazis took the settlement, which was then called Liskhimstroi, and the industrial complex. The Soviet Red Army liberated the city on February 1, 1943. Seven years later, as Liskhimstroi was rising as a centre of Ukraine's chemical industry, it was renamed as Severodonetsk, after the Donets river that cuts across Ukraine's east. Before the Russian invasion, Severodonetsk accounted for some 22% of the industrial output of Luhansk. It's also home to Azot Corporation, one of the largest chemical plants in Europe.

Multiple fronts

On February 14, Russia opened multiple fronts attacking Ukraine from the north, east and south. While its troops faced fierce Ukrainian resistance in the north, forcing Moscow to pull back forces from around Kyiv and Kharkiv, they made gains in the south and east. In recent weeks, Russian troops' main war effort has been in the Donbas, "the liberation" of which is "an unconditional priority", as stated by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavorv. This means, Russia wants to take full control of Luhansk and Donetsk. And for this, the capture of Severodonetsk is key.

If they capture Severodonetsk, the Russians can move towards Lysychansk and then further towards the territories in Donetsk that are still defended by Ukrainian forces. Furthermore, Russia, which has already taken over the Azovstal Steel Mill of Mariupol and controls key ports on the Black Sea/Azov Sea coasts such as Berdyansk, Mariupol and Kherson, would be able to choke Ukraine's economy further if it takes Severodonetsk and Lysychansk. In recent weeks, Russia has pummelled both cities with its devastating artillery fire. On the other side, for Ukraine, after the fall of Mariupol, Severodonetsk has become a symbol of resistance.

Ukraine's best hope is to make Russia's gains costlier and slow down its advances, if not reversing them. The U.S. has already announced that it would be sending long-range rockets (Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems) to Ukrainian forces, which Kyiv hopes would help bolster its defence of the last standing cities in the east.

'Vital to reform poorly aimed subsidies'

Subsidy reform can spur growth, fiscal discipline is key to making economy stronger: Somanathan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Union Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan on Saturday stressed the need for fiscal discipline to make the economy stronger and suggested reforming poorly targeted subsidies such as those for electricity and fertilizers in order to improve the quality of public expenditure.

"First and foremost, State and Central governments need prudent and conservative fiscal policies, this is absolutely critical, if we have to stay afloat and do well," Mr. Somanathan said delivering the XVI CUB V. Narayanan Memorial Lecture on 'India in the emerging global economic architecture'.

He also emphasised the importance of reducing the fiscal deficit, particularly at the central level, minimising external debt as well as fostering a strong domestic investment climate.

Taking aim: India has to reform poorly targeted subsidies like those in electricity, fertilizers, says Somanathan. • M. VEDHAN

"We need to improve the quality of our public expenditure, with greater share for those aspects of public expenditure which help to promote growth. To do this, we have to reform poorly targeted subsidies such as those in electricity and fertilizers, without which we can't improve the quality of public expenditure. There are no quick fixes... It needs to be done. It calls for introspection," he said.

Asserting that if India continues to grow at 6% to 7% a year it would be way ahead of many countries globally, Mr. Somanathan said, "We have to only ensure that we don't do anything bad. We will improve, because others are worsening. We have the opportunity to shape the emerging architecture."

"If India wants to truly play a significant role in shaping the emerging global economy, the most important challenge lies on the domestic front. We can't shape the global order, if we do not have a strong domestic economy," he said.

Sri Lanka crisis

He also referred to the ongoing balance of payments crisis in Sri Lanka and said it pointed to the declining role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"As of today, the role of two countries China and India in Sri Lanka's economic crisis and its resolution has been greater than [that of the] IMF. It may change. The situation is that multilateral institutions that were the pillars of the 1944 order are now not driving the change. It is a change and it is seen visibly," he observed.

He added that for India to become a global economic power it needed to emulate Singapore and Dubai on the ease of doing business, pursue scientific and technological innovations like the U.S., adopt the quality focus of the Japanese, and aim to match the manufacturing prowess of the Germans.

INTERVIEW | FRANCISCO D'SOUZA

'Current attrition cycle very different from earlier ones'

'Employees who quit, spurning counter offers by employers'

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The technology services industry saw a good run during the pandemic as delivery from remote locations gained acceptance from customers. In tandem, as demand from customers rose, the war for talent too intensified. Though the industry has gone through these cycles of crests and troughs for talent, former Cognizant vice-chairman and co-founder of growth fund Recognize **Francisco D'Souza** *says this cycle is fundamentally different from past ones. Excerpts:*

How different is the current fight for talent from the time you helmed Cognizant?

■ While there may be, on the surface, some similarities, I would say that the playbook on attrition and retention of the past is not necessarily going to work going forward. The conventional wisdom about the current levels of attrition in the industry is that we had a COVID-induced shock to demand because COVID accelerated digital transformation around the world. We transacted more online, shopped more online, banked more online, and even did more of our healthcare online. So there was an acceleration in demand. And at the same time, at least early in the pandemic, during the time of great uncertainty, firms in the industry pulled back on supply because the future was relatively uncertain. So they scaled back hiring plans.

Conventional wisdom [tells us] there was supply demand imbalance—where demand increased, perhaps unexpectedly, supply didn't grow as fast. This led to this wage inflation, which is leading to high levels of attrition. That view tends to oversimplify things and fails to recognise some important trends.

The first is that there are very clear signs that there seems to be a fundamental frustration in the relationship between employees and employers that goes beyond compensation.

I saw some research that was done by AON India, that as many as 90% of employees who resigned in recent times from companies were offered extremely lucrative counter offers by their existing employers. But only 35% chose to stay back. So what happened to the rest of them? Why did they still move on despite compensation being essentially neutralised? There's something else going on here.

If you look at the technology services industry, it's important to understand that over the last 40 years or so, the nature of work that technology services firms are doing has changed fundamentally because the role of technology has changed. A few decades ago, technology was a back-office enabler for most businesses. Therefore, the work of an IT services business was very algorithmic and procedural.

But today as technology has become a more fundamental enabler of businesses, it is the product of most businesses. The work of an IT services business is becoming much more creative and heuristic and much less algorithmic. This has made work much more intrinsically interesting. That means how you configure the workplace and your culture, how you attract, retain and motivate people is fundamentally different. I think this mismatch of culture between the work of today and the work of the past is something really to keep in mind. This is one of the fundamental drivers of attrition that we see today.

When do you think this cycle will end?

■ There's a macro and a micro aspect to this. On the macro side, I don't think that the supply demand imbalance will be addressed for a long period of time... there's going to be a shortage until at least 2030. At the micro level, over the next 18 months or so we'll start to see some cooling off, because... the industry has inducted a lot of new talent from universities over the last 12 months. And that should ease the supply side of the equation.

On the demand side, we are already in a period of economic volatility - of high inflation and where geopolitics are trickier than they've been at least in my working career. So... it's reasonable to expect that that'll have some impact on demand.

For full interview: https://bit.ly/3xjM6yA

Strides gets U.S. FDA nod to sell Ibuprofen Oral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Drug firm Strides Pharma Science on Saturday said its subsidiary had received approval from the U.S. FDA to market Ibuprofen Oral Suspension, used for treatment of pain and fever, in the American market.

Singapore-based Strides Pharma Global Pte, a stepdown wholly owned subsidiary of the company, has received approval for its product from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The drug firm would have 180 days of Competitive Generic Therapy (CGT) exclusivity for the product, it added.

The product will be manufactured at Stride's Bengaluru-based plant.

'Ensure pharma packaging is elder-friendly, child-safe'

'Emphasis on sustainability without compromise on quality'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian pharma packaging industry has been urged to come up with effective solutions towards child safety and elder-friendly packaging of pharmaceutical products to safeguard their interest and to aid the growth of the pharma industry.

"Pharma packaging is one of the important stakeholders of pharma industry," said HG Koshia, Commissioner, Food & Drugs Control Administration, Government of Gujarat.

"I have asked packaging solution providers to focus more on child resistant packaging (CRP) so that children should not consume the drugs by mistake," Mr. Koshia added.

"Packaging should be elder-friendly considering issues such as illness and weakness," he said, speaking on the sidelines of the InnoPack Pharma Confex here.

Stating that the pharma industry had to ensure safety, H.G. Ananthakrishnan, director general, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) emphasised on children-safe packaging.

He said emphasis had to be laid on developing eco-friendly packaging. "The question is how to make the packaging materials sustainable without compromising on the quality of the product," he said.

"The pharmaceutical packaging market, valued at $1.4 billion, is expected to grow at a rate of 8.10% CAGR during 2022-2027 and 7.54% CAGR till 2030 and a reach market size of $3 billion," said Yogesh Mudras, MD, Informa Markets - India.

'I-T returns rose in FY22 from previous fiscal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The number of income tax returns had increased in FY22 over the previous fiscal, Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman Sangeeta Singh said on Saturday.

Ms. Singh said the number of I-T returns last fiscal was 7.14 crore against 6.9 crore in the preceding financial year. "There is an increase in the base of taxpayers and the filing of revised returns," she added.

The Board is witnessing an increase in tax collection, which usually happens if the country is showing an upward trend in economic growth, the chairman said, adding "if the economic activities are going high, purchases and sales will also increase".

SPORT

Rutuja-Erika duo wins title

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rutuja Bhosale and Erika Sema beat Haruna Arakawa and Natsuho Arakawa 6-1, 6-3 in the doubles final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Chiang Rai, Thailand, on Saturday.

It was the second doubles title of the season, and the 18th of her professional career, for the 26-year-old Rutuja.

In the singles semifinals, however, Rutuja was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by top seed Nao Hibino of Japan.

The results: $25,000 ITF women, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Semifinals: Nao Hibino (Jpn) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles (final): Erika Sema (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Haruna Arakawa & Natsuho Arakawa 6-1, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, San Diego, US: Doubles (semifinals): Yuta kikuchi (Jpn) & Siddhant Banthia bt Blake Kasday & Jett Middleton (US) 6-1, 2-6, [10-5].

Lovlina, Nikhat in squad

Jasmine, Nitu also make the grade with stunning wins

CWG BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and World champion Nikhat Zareen overcame their share of odds to win the women's boxing selection trials for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in New Delhi on Saturday.

Both recorded identical 7-0 wins. Lovlina defeated Pooja in the 70kg final, while Nikhat beat Minakshi in the 50kg final.

Birmingham-bound: Lovlina, Nikhat, Nitu and Jasmine will be sharing more than a selfie at the Commonwealth Games. • PTI

Distractions

"I had not prepared well for the World championships. The defeat taught me a lot. After the Tokyo Olympics, there were a lot of invites to attend events. It had its effect. So I worked on the mental side of my game," said Lovlina after the trials.

Nikhat performed well despite the post-World championships distractions. "I had only three days to prepare. The main challenge was to come down to 50kg from 52kg. I did everything necessary to control my weight," said Nikhat.

Going all out

Jasmine Lamboria punched above her weight to defeat Parveen, who recently bagged a 63kg Worlds bronze, 6-1 to take the spot in the 60kg.

World youth champion Nitu Ghanghas rallied to stun Worlds silver medallist Manju Rani 5-2 to get selected in the 48kg class.

India will be represented by eight men and four women at the Games.

The squad: Women: Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Jasmine Lamboria (60kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (70kg).

A Star Is Born expected to score

BENGALURU: A Star Is Born, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Krishnaraja Wadiyar Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 12).

False rails (width about 8m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ICH DIEN PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over – 2-30 p.m.: 1. Divine Blessings (3) S. John 60, 2. Ansaldo (1) Hindu S 57.5, 3. Amazonite (4) B. Nayak 56.5, 4. Poet Of Beauty (5) S. Shareef 56.5, 5. The Adviser (7) J.H. Arul 56, 6. Toronero (6) Salman K 56, 7. Baroness (2) Rajesh K 54.5, 8. Favorito (9) Rayan 54.5, 9. The Intruder (10) Ajeeh K 54 and 10. Sling Shot (8) Vinod Shinde 53.5.

1. DIVINE BLESSINGS, 2. THE ADVISER, 3. BARONESS

2 KRANJI PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25 – 3-00: 1. Handsome Mover (5) A. Qureshi 62.5, 2. Shubankar (1) Akshay K 62.5, 3. Super Ruffian (6) Nikhil N 61, 4. Exalted Dream (4) A. Prakash 59.5, 5. Love (2) Kiran N 59, 6. Mrs Thatcher (7) Sandesh 59, 7. Russian Romance (3) C.S. Jodha 58.5.

1. RUSSIAN ROMANCE, 2. SHUBANKAR

3 MAYOR'S CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 – 3-30: 1. Enid Blyton (9) A. Prakash 62.5, 3. Eternal Blaze (7) C.S. Jodha 62.5, 3. Sea Of Cortez (5) Dashrath S 60.5, 4. The Bawaji (2) Kirtish B 60, 5. Watchmystars (1) Trevor 56, 6. Presidential (3) P.S. Chouhan 54, 7. Whizzo (4) Ashhad A 53, 8. All Attractive (8) Akshay K 52.5 and 9. Mountain Lion (6) Likith 52.5.

1. ALL ATTRACTIVE, 2. PRESIDENTIAL, 3. ETERNAL BLAZE

4 KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over – 4-00: 1. Forest Flame (5) Sandesh 60, 2. A Star Is Born (4) Suraj 59.5, 3. Miracle (1) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 4. Giant Star (3) C.S. Jodha 55.5 and 5. Chopin (2) Trevor 54.5.

1. A STAR IS BORN, 2. CHOPIN

5 PRINCE KHARTOUM PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms) – 4-30: 1. Born King (8) Kiran N 56, 2. Domingo (6) Dashrath S 56, 3. Empire Of Dreams (1) Ajinkya 56, 4. Galloping Ahead (9) Akshay K 56, 5. Kodava Streak (5) Vinod Shinde 56, 6. Artemis Ignacia (10) Sandesh 54.5, 7. Chinky Pinky (3) Richard Oliver 54.5, 8. Lady Godiva (2) S. Shareef 54.5, 9. Meghann (4) Vishal B 54.5, 10. Montelena (10) Anjar 54.5 and 11. Royal Glory (7) Trevor 54.5.

1. ROYAL GLORY, 2. CHINKY PINKY, 3. ARTEMIS IGNACIA

6 ROYAL COMMAND PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over – 5-00: 1. Towering Presence (4) Shreyas S 62.5, 2. Measure Of Time (7) T.S. Jodha 61, 3. Scribbling Hopper (5) Akshay K 60, 4. Aferpi (6) Angad 59, 5. Johnny Bravo (1) D. Patel 55, 6. Aircraft (2) Dashrath S 53.5, 7. Tyto Alba (8) Rajesh K 53 and 8. Another Rainbow (3) Raghuveer S 51.5.

1. AIRCRAFT, 2. SCRIBBLING HOPPER, 3. MEASURE OF TIME

7 ICH DIEN PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over – 5-30: 1. Millbrook (10) S. John 60, 2. Tenali (4) Suraj 59.5, 3. Silver Swift (11) B. Nayak 59, 4. Osiris (2) Ajeet K 57, 5. Impeccable (8) Nikhil N 56, 6. Classic Charm (9) Bhawani S 55.5, 7. Clever Hans (1) Akshay K 55.5, 8. Debonair (5) Md. Aliyar 55.5, 9. Air Display (3) A. Prakash 55, 10. Elite Agent (6) Angad 55 and 11. Flower Of Paradise (7) S. Saqlain 53.

1. TENALI, 2. CLEVER HANS, 3. MILLBROOK

DAY'S BEST: ALL ATTRACTIVE

DOUBLE: A STAR IS BORN - TENALI

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Smashing Blue wins

BENGALURU: R.H. Sequeira-trained Smashing Blue (Akshay Kumar up), won the Racing Patrons Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 11). The winner is owned by Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Jockey Trevor won three races for the day.

1. GUINDY PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over: **BLACK WHIZZ** (Suraj) 1, Habanero (A. Prakash) 2, Altamonte (Vivek) 3 and Fierce Fighter (Arshad) 4. Not run: Light Of Love and Jan Zizka. 4, Shd and 1. Im 14.53s. ₹14 (w), 11, 16 and 26 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 45, FP: 53, Q: 52, Trinella: 256 and 128, Exacta: 661 and 230. Favourite: Black Whizz. Owner: Mr. Syed Mufeeb. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

2. MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (terms): **TRANQUILO** (Trevor) 1, Rapidus (Akshay K) 2, Queen Envied (Anjar) 3 and Black Eagle (Sandesh) 4. Not run: Worldly Wise. 2-1/4, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 26.45s. ₹28 (w), 11, 14 and 34 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 63, FP: 219, Q: 78, Trinella: 1,697 and 1,110, Exacta: 3,379 and 446. Favourite: Black Eagle. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal & Mr. Arjun Mangalorkar. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,800m), rated 40 to 65: **PISSARRO** (Trevor) 1, Ladida (C.S. Jodha) 2, Starry Wind (A. Prakash) 3 and Silvarius (S. John) 4. 3-1/2, 10 and 3-3/4. 1m 51.97s. ₹15 (w), 14 and 10 (p), SHP: 22, THP: 34, FP: 25, Q: 15, Trinella: 117 and 106. Favourite: Pissarro. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. RACING PATRONS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above: **SMASHING BLUE** (Akshay K) 1, Golden Oaks (Salman K) 2, Augustus Caesar (A. Prakash) 3 and Automatic (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 4-1/2, 1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m 12.24s. ₹18 (w), 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 31, FP: 46, Q: 24, Trinella: 128 and 97, Exacta: 258 and 132. Favourite: Smashing Blue. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **KENSINGTON COURT** (Trevor) 1, Tactical Command (Dhanu S) 2, Thousand Words (Akshay K) 3 and Grey Channel (Khurshad) 4. 1-3/4, 6-1/4 and 1. 1m 12.30s. ₹27 (w), 13, 16 and 17 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 40, FP: 202, Q: 120, Trinella: 424 and 163, Exacta: 4,315 and 3,493. Favourite: Kensington Court. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd & Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. PENDRAGON PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **SILVERITA** (Sandesh) 1, Belvedere (Akshay K) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Rajesh K) 3 and Mitsuro (J.H. Arul) 4. Not run: Ashwa Yudhvir. 3-1/2, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m 26.98s. ₹21 (w), 10, 12 and 25 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 49, FP: 45, Q: 29, Trinella: 260 and 168, Exacta: 403 and 108. Favourite: Silverita. Owners: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta & Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

7. GUINDY PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over: **ACASTER** (Vivek) 1, Anne Boleyn (A. Prakash) 2, Extraordinary (Ajeet K) 3 and Tiger Returns (A. Imran) 4. 3-1/4, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 14.00s. ₹74 (w), 24, 16 and 134 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 256, FP: 821, Q: 318, Trinella: 47,256, Exacta: 35,974 and 10,278. Favourite: Tiger Returns. Owner: Mr. Roopesh S. Trainer: Warren Singh.

Jackpot: ₹699 (117 tkts); Runner-up: 28 (1,262 tkts); Treble (i): 94 (73 tkts); (ii): 446 (38 tkts).

Mumbai loses Tare to finger injury

RANJI TROPHY

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

Aditya Tare has been ruled out of the remainder of the Ranji Trophy after fracturing his finger during Mumbai's quarterfinal against Uttarakhand. Prasad Pawar is set to join the squad as his replacement ahead of the semifinal against Uttar Pradesh, starting on Tuesday.

Tare. • FILE PHOTO

Fracture

Tare injured the finger while attempting a catch down the leg off pacer Tushar Deshpande in Uttarakhand's second innings. The scans later revealed a fracture, thus ruling Tare out at least for four weeks.

As a result, Hardik Tamore, the back-up wicketkeeper who led Mumbai to the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy championship in April, is set to be drafted into the Mumbai XI, with Pawar serving as back-up 'keeper.

"It is unfortunate that we will miss Aditya's experience. Prasad was a part of the group during the Vijay Hazare Trophy, so the selection committee unanimously picked him," Salil Ankola, Mumbai's chief selector, said on Saturday.

Tare, who is Mumbai's last Ranji Trophy-winning captain, returned home on Saturday evening.

"It is obviously disappointing to be missing out on the big matches, but cannot do much about it since I am struggling to grip the bat. I am sure Hardik will come good in the crunch situation with the bat and behind the stumps," Tare told *The Hindu*.

Rahul's dream comes true

CHESS

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

The long wait for P. Rahul Srivasthav has finally ended.

The 19-year-old Rahul got the first three GM norms in 2019 and then had to wait for two years because of the pandemic break to be back in the circuit to finish joint-winner in the 2021 US Masters championship and earn the fourth GM norm.

Now, almost a year later, he earned the stipulated GM title after crossing the magical ELO2500-mark in the on-going Cattolica Chess Festival (he got the fifth GM norm before in the Festival D Estate event, Italy, recently) on Friday night to be the fourth GM from Telangana and 74th from India.

Rahul Srivasthav.

Once he won the State under-9 title in 2011, his parents P. Srikanth and mother Vijayalakshmi (homemaker) decided to back him to the hilt.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Rifhath, Haris Rahman star in Parikrama's big win

Forwards Rifhath and Haris Rahman bagged three and two goals respectively in Parikrama's 5-0 drubbing of BTM FC in the BDFA-A division football league at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Saturday. Parikrama started the match strongly and went ahead through Haris in the 13th minute, who added his second in quick succession. The second half belonged to Rifhath, who scored two goals in three minutes, before adding a third in the 63rd minute to wrap up a dominant performance.

The win takes Parikrama to fifth place, with 16 points from 11 matches, the same as BTM FC, who drop to sixth on goal-difference.

The results:

A-division: South United FC 2 (Leynold Marks 7, 24) bt RWF FC 1 (Aneesh 53).

HAL FC 4 (Narendra Mari 1, Hritik Rawat 7, Sanjay Rai 80, Sathish Kumar 80) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 0.

Parikrama FC 5 (Haris Rahman 13, 17, Rifhath 49, 52, 63) bt BTM FC 0.

Income Tax FC 2 (Ilence Sharma 48, Kapil Bhat 80) drew with Postal Dept. FC 2 (Dheeran Singh 7, 65).

Another test of skills awaits India bowlers

South Africa's big-hitters present formidable challenge; Umran and Arshdeep may get a look in

SA IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI
CUTTACK

The Indian bowlers will face another test of their skills of bowling on a small ground when the host meets South Africa in the second Twenty20 International at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday.

The first of the five-match series was a lesson for the Indians, who wilted under the Porteas firepower in Delhi and saw a 200-plus total being overhauled comfortably.

In prep mode: India will not only look to Shreyas and Kishan to keep up the good show in batting, but also hope that the newcomer Arshdeep delivers with the ball. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

If only!

Experienced seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar admitted that the home bowlers needed to perform better.

In a lighter vein, Bhuvneshwar said, "I wish South Africa drops Miller, but they will not!"

Apart from Miller, who seems to be playing in an extended Indian Premier League, India will look to negate the threats of the clean-hitting Rassie van der Dussen (who combined with Miller to fashion South Africa's biggest run chase), the seasoned Quinton de Kock, versatile captain Temba Bavuma among other big-hitters.

Batters' form

India may be tempted to experiment by fielding a few IPL stars, such as Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh.

As Ishan Kishan blasted a half-century and Hardik Pandya played a cameo in the middle-order in Delhi, the Rishabh Pant-led India would like to see its batters continue in the same vein.

In humid and possibly overcast conditions, the home batters need to handle skilful South African pacers Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje and Wayne Parnell – who can mix things up and use the short ball well – as effectively as possible.

This will be South Africa's second T20I at the venue. The last match between the teams in 2015 was marred by an unpleasant bottle-throwing incident.

Full house likely

Barabati, which is staging an international match after two-and-a-half years, had more than 10,000 fans during the Indian team's practice on Saturday and may see a full house on match day.

The teams (from):

India: Rishabh Pant (Capt., wk), Hardik Pandya (Vice-Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen and Marco Jansen.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Keen contest for IPL media rights

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

Four major broadcasters are set to break the bank to acquire the IPL media rights during the e-auction starting on Sunday for the five-year cycle (2023-27).

Despite the global retail giant Amazon pulling out of the race along with sports streaming platform Fancode, the likes of Disney+ Hotstar, Sony, Zee and Reliance-backed Sports18 are set to go all out for the rights, divided between television and digital categories for the first time. Times Internet Ltd. is likely to join the fray only for the digital category.

Contrary to earlier perception of 370 games, the rights will be awarded for 410 games over the next five IPL editions. The IPL authorities have informed potential bidders that the IPL will have 74 games each in 2023 and 2024, 84 games each in 2025 and 2026 and 94 since 2027. The base price for TV and digital rights is ₹49 crore and ₹33 crore per game.

Mitchell takes NZ to 553

Adds 236 for fifth wicket with Blundell

REUTERS
NOTTINGHAM

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell scored an impressive 190 while Tom Blundell made 106 as the tourists piled up 553 in their first innings on day two of the second Test against England on Saturday. The hosts were 90 for one at close with Ollie Pope (51 batting) and Alex Lees (34 batting) leading the reply.

Mitchell. • GETTY IMAGES

The day belonged to Mitchell who shared a partnership of 236 – New Zealand's highest fifth-wicket stand in Tests – as the World champion hit quick runs in its bid to level the three-match series 1-1. Mitchell's 318-ball innings contained 23 fours and four sixes

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand – 1st innings: Tom Latham c Potts b Anderson 26, Will Young c Crawley b Stokes 47, Devon Conway c Foakes b Anderson 46, Henry Nicholls c Foakes b Stokes 30, Daryl Mitchell c Foakes b Potts 190, Tom Blundell c Stokes b Leach 106, Michael Bracewell c Root b Anderson 49, Kyle Jamieson c Foakes b Broad 14, Tim Southee c Root b Broad 4, Matt Henry c Crawley b Leach 0, Trent Boult (not out) 16; Extras (b-1, lb-16, nb-8): 25; Total (in 145.3 overs): 553.

Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-84, 3-161, 4-169, 5-405, 6-496, 7-513, 8-517, 9-520.

England bowling: Anderson 27-9-62-3, Broad 26-4-107-2, Potts 30.3-6-126-1, Stokes 23-2-85-2, Leach 35-6-140-2, Root 4-0-16-0.

England – 1st innings: Alex Lees (batting) 34, Zak Crawley c Blundell b Boult 4, Ollie Pope (batting) 51; Extras (b-1): 1; Total (for one wkt. in 26 overs): 90.

Fall of wicket: 1-6.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 7-1-21-0, Boult 7-1-18-1, Henry 6-3-30-0, Jamieson 6-2-20-0.

LIVE TELECAST

KIYG 2022: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2.30 p.m. onwards
England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Pakistan vs West Indies: 3rd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 4.30 p.m.
F1: Azerbaijan GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 p.m.
India vs South Africa: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Golden jump by Tejaswin

EUGENE (U.S.)

Tejaswin Shankar won the men's high jump title with a season-best 2.27m in the NCAA Championships at Hayward Field on Friday. He also achieved the AFI's qualification standard of 2.27m for the Birmingham CWG.

Shanaka's blitz gives Lanka consolation win

PALLEKELE

Dasun Shanaka (54 n.o., 25b, 5x4, 4x6) helped Sri Lanka pull off a thrilling four-wicket win with a ball to spare in the third T20I against Australia on Saturday.

The scores: Australia 176/5 in 20 overs (David Warner 39, Steve Smith 37 n.o., Marcus Stoinis 38) lost to Sri Lanka 177/6 in 19.5 overs (Dasun Shanaka 54 n.o.). AP

Zadran takes Afghanistan past the finish line

HARARE

Najibullah Zadran slammed a six off the second ball of the final over to give Afghanistan a six-wicket win against Zimbabwe in the first T20I.

The scores: Zimbabwe 159/8 in 20 overs (Wessley Madhevere 32, Sikandar Raza 45, Nijat Masood 3/39) lost to Afghanistan 160/4 in 19.2 overs (Hazratullah Zazai 45, Rahmanullah Gurbaz 33, Najibullah Zadran 44 n.o.). AFP

France snatches draw with Austria

PARIS

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to rescue a point for France in a 1-1 draw at Austria in the Nations League, but the defending champion sits in last place with just two points from three group games.

Important results: League A: Group A: Austria 1 (Weimann 37) drew with France 1 (Mbappe 83); Denmark 0 lost to Croatia 1 (Pasalic 69).
League C: Group 3: Belarus 1 (Malkevich 84) drew with Kazakhstan 1 (Aimbetov 13).

Leclerc grabs pole for Azerbaijan GP

BAKU

Charles Leclerc came up with a flying lap to seal the pole on Saturday during the qualifying session for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. The Ferrari driver was joined in the front row by Sergio Perez. Max Verstappen and Carlos Sainz locked up the second row. AFP

Super-sub Samad does it for India

His injury-time strike helps the team pip Afghanistan

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Sahal Abdul Samad played the super-sub, bringing up a goal in the injury-time to help India beat Afghanistan 2-1 and keep its AFC Asian Cup chances alive. The second-round match of the final qualification round saw all the three goals coming in the final five minutes as India came up triumphant thanks to Samad's spectacular goal when the match appeared to be headed for a draw.

Breaking through: Chhetri scored India's opener in the 86th minute. • PTI

Sunil Chhetri put India ahead in the 86th minute, converting a fine free-kick but the Afghans drew level two minutes later from a corner. Samad, who replaced Chhetri in the 89th minute, ensured full quota of points for India and ended Afghanistan's hopes in the tournament.

The first 85 minutes saw the Indian attacks go unproductive. India showed its attacking intent right from the start but found its forays crashing in the Afghan box.

The Indian head coach Igor Stimac brought in a couple of changes in the starting line-up. But the Indian attack – having captain Chhetri, Manvir Singh and Ashique Kuruniyan – struggled to open up the opposition goalmouth for most part.

India made a last-ditch effort in the final five minutes and succeeded against a tiring Afghan defence.

The results: Afghanistan 1 (Zubayr Amiri 88) lost to India (Sunil Chhetri 86, Sahal Abdul Samad 90+1); Cambodia 0 lost to Hong Kong 3 (Matthew Orr 19, Sun Ming Him 21, Chan Siu Kwan 63).

Anand third; Carlsen wins

SPORTS BUREAU

Viswanathan Anand signed off his campaign in the Norway Chess 2022 with a ninth-round victory over local challenger Aryan Tari in their Armageddon game to finish third at Stavanger on Friday.

Magnus Carlsen won the Armageddon against Veselin Topalov to keep the title for the fourth successive year. By this time, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov appeared in good position to beat Teimour Radjabov and win the title. However, Radjabov defended the position very well.

The standings: 1. Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 16.5/30), 2. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 15.5/29), 3. Viswanathan Anand (14.5/30), 4. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 14/30), 5. Wesley So (USA, 12.5/30), 6. Anish Giri (Ned, 12/29.5), 7. Veselin Topalov (Bul, 9.5/31), 8. Aryan Tari (9.5/30), 9. Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 8/30), 10. Wang Hao (7.5/30.5).

India men win thrilling shootout against Belgium

The women, however, go down fighting in the first of the two-leg tie

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

A sensational effort by experienced India goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh and an on-target attack in a thrilling shootout saw the Indian men's hockey team defeat Olympic Champions Belgium 5-4 in the FIH Hockey Pro League match here in Antwerp on Saturday.

Sensational Sreejesh

It was a penalty stroke save by Sreejesh off an attempt by Nicolas de Kerpel during the shootout that ensured India was victorious while Harmanpreet Singh, Abhishek, Lalit Upadhyay, Shamsher Singh and Akashdeep Singh converted for India.

Earlier during the regulation time, the men held their nerve, making a brilliant comeback in the final quarter to overcome a 1-3 deficit only to hold Belgium 3-3 and take the encounter to a thrilling shootout.

A rusty-looking Indian women's hockey team gave away possession quite easily a number of times before putting up a fight in the fourth quarter, but eventually lost 1-2 to Belgium in its first of the two-legged tie.

The results:

Men: India 3 (Shamsher Singh 18, Harmanpreet Singh 52, Jarmanpreet Singh 57) drew with Belgium 3 (Cedric Charlier 21, Simon Gougnard 36, Nicolas de Kerpel 51). *India won the penalty shootout 5-4.*
Women: India 1 (Lalremsiami 48) lost to Belgium 2 (Nelen Barbara 3, Andre Ballenghien 35).

Narrow miss for Daruvala

Daruvala took the second spot. • TWITTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BAKU

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala came within half a second of his first Formula 2 win of the season before finishing second in the Azerbaijan round Sprint race on Saturday.

The Red Bull-backed Prema driver crossed the line just 0.380 seconds behind ART's Frederik Vesti at the end of a safety car-disrupted race.

Manpreet wins shot put with record effort

Manu bags javelin gold with new mark

ATHLETICS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Haryana's Manpreet Kaur stole the limelight with a fantastic throw of 18.06 in women's shot put on the second day of the 61st SNJ National inter-State athletics championships here on Saturday.

D.P. Manu. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The effort, a new National record, also booked Manpreet's ticket to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games next month.

Hima Das emerged the fastest woman of the meet as she pipped Dutee Chand to the top spot. The former came home in 11.43s and the latter 11.44.

Long jumper M. Sreeshankar of Kerala, who had a jump of 8.01m on Friday, rewrote his own mark with a leap of 8.23m while Karnataka's D.P. Manu created a new meet record in men's javelin with an effort of 84.35m, his personal best.

The results:

Men: 100m: 1. Amlan Borgohain (Asm) 10.47s, 2. K. Ellakkiyadasan (TN) 10.48, 3. Harjit Singh (Pun) 10.55; **400m:** 1. Amoj Jacob (Del) 45.68s, 2. Noah Nirmal Tom (Ker) 46.44, 3. Muhammed Ajmal (Ker) 46.58; **1500m:** 1. Harendra Kumar (Del) 3:44.26, 2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (UP) 3:44.60, 3. Parvej Khan (MP) 3:45.81; **Long jump:** 1. M. Sreeshankar (Ker) 8.23m (NMR) (OMR: M. Sreeshankar, 8.01, Chen), 2. Md. Anees (Ker) 8.15, 3. R. Swaminathan (TN) 7.89; **Javelin:** 1. D.P. Manu (Kar) 84.35m (NMR) (OMR: Shivpal Singh, 82.28m, 2018), 2. Rohit Yadav (UP) 82.54, 3. Yashvir Singh (Raj) 78.62; **Pole vault:** 1. S. Siva (TN) 5.00m, 2. A. Gnana Sone (TN) 4.60, 3. Sunil (Har) 4.60.

Women: 100m: 1. Hima Das (Asm) 11.43s, 2. Dutee Chand (Odi) 11.44, 3. Srabani Nanda (Odi) 11.53; **400m:** 1. Kiran Pahal (Har) 52.47, 2. Rupal (UP) 52.72, 3. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 53.78; **1500m:** 1. Chanda (Del) 4:13.85, 2. Shraddha Rajan Kaathriya (Guj) 4:14.54, 3. Ankita (Utr) 4:17.80; **Shot put:** Manpreet Kaur (Har) 18.06m (NR) (OR: Manpreet Kaur, 17.96m, 2015), 2. Kiran Baliyan (UP) 16.843, 3. Abha Khatua (Mah) 16.69.

Dhruv, Akanksha clinch gold

KIYG

SPORTS BUREAU

Dhruv Hirpara and Akanksha Nitture won the boys' and girls' tennis titles at the Khelo India Youth Games at Panchkula (Haryana) on Saturday.

Gujarat's Dhruv clinched the gold with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over favourite Rushil Khosla of Uttar Pradesh while Maharashtra's Akanksha Nitture fought hard to overcome Suhitha Maruri 6-7(2), 7-6(4), 6-4.

Maharashtra, which also won a gold in table tennis and swimming, climbed to the top spot with 37 gold overtaking Haryana (36).

Dhruv. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The girls' duo of Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh defeated Haryana's Suhana Saini and Prithoki Chakraborti 14-12, 11-9, 11-6 to win the table tennis for Maharashtra. Swimmer Apeksha Fernandes' gold in the 200m girls' Individual Medley with a new meet mark of 2:25.18s helped Maharashtra pull ahead in the medals race.

Karnataka continued to dominate the swimming pool as it bagged four of the six gold medals on offer on Saturday. The gold came through Utkarsh Patil (boys' 200m backstroke), Ridhima Veerendrakumar (girls' 200m backstroke), Aneesh Gowda (boys' 800m freestyle) and the 4x100m medley team. clinching top honours.

Tennis results (both finals):

Boys: Doubles: Kush Arjeria & Deep Munim bt Daksh Prasad & Denim Yadav 6-4, 2-6, [10-7].
Girls: Doubles: Lakshmi Prabha & Janani Ramesh bt Vaishnavi Adkar & Sudipta Senthilkumar 5-7, 6-2, [10-5].

Warriors square with Celtics

Curry comes up with a dazzling 43-point display

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOSTON

Stephen Curry produced a dazzling 43-point display as Golden State Warriors battled past Boston Celtics 107-97 to level the NBA Finals series 2-2 on Friday.

With the Warriors needing a victory to avoid going down 1-3 in the best-of-seven series, Curry delivered one of the best performances of his glittering career to reignite hopes of a seventh championship.

Curry had entered Game 4 with concerns over his health after suffering a knock to his foot in the Game 3 loss on Wednesday.

But the 34-year-old two-time NBA Most Valuable Player emphatically laid to rest any doubts about his fitness as he hauled Golden State back into the finals.

Bullish: Curry dares the Celtics defence comprising White, Horford and Tatum. • AP

The result: Boston Celtics 97 (Jayson Tatum 23, Jaylen Brown 21, Marcus Smart 18, Derrick White 16) lost to Golden State Warriors 107 (Stephen Curry 43, Klay Thompson 18, Andrew Wiggins 17, Jordan Poole 14). Series 2-2.

Rajini cruises to victory, underlines his class

Domination: Rajini Krishnan, winner of the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category race • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Veteran Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power 1) raced to a comfortable win in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc open class in the Rolon round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mathana Kumar and Prabhu Arunagiri completed a one-two finish for the Bengaluru-based Pacer Yamaha team in the Pro-Stock 165cc open class.

The results (provisional):

National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race 1): 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power 1, Chennai) 12:26.700s; 2. Jagan Kumar (Petronas TVS Racing, Chennai), 3. R. Anand (Speed Up Racing, Chennai).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race 1): 1. Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha, Chennai) 13:07.483, 2. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha, Chennai), 3. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing, Chennai).

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race 1: 1. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing, Hubballi) 10:12.279, 2. V. Chiranth (Rookies Racing, Bengaluru, 3. Aldrin Babu (RACR Castrol Power 1, Chalakudy).

Support Race – Stock 301-400cc: 1. Mihir Vijay Sakpal (Apex Racing Academy) 13:52.706, 2. R. Ashwin (Pvt, Bengaluru), 3. Naresh Kaname (Pvt, Lakur).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Rookie (Apache RTR 200): 1. V. Chiranth (Bengaluru) 13:53.153; 2. Shreyas Hareesh (Bengaluru), 3. K.R Tamizhinian.

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Aditi Krishnan (Bengaluru) 11:58.451; 2. Renuka Gajendran (Bengaluru), 3. Ananya Aswathi (Chennai).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup – NSF250 Open (Race 1): 1. Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (Pune) 12:24.394, 2. Shyam Sundar (Chennai), 3. A.S James (Bengaluru).

CBR 150 (Race 1): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (Mumbai) 14:46.340; 2. Siddesh Sawant (Kolhapur), 3. Shyam Babu (Chennai).

Support Race (Hornet 2.0, Race 1): 1. Ullas Santrupt Nanda (Bengaluru) 15:03.230, 2. G. Balaji (Chennai), 3. Romario (Chennai).

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